

PIZARRO;
OR, THE
CONQUEST OF PERU:

AS RELATED BY
A FATHER TO HIS CHILDREN,
AND DESIGNED FOR
THE INSTRUCTION OF YOUTH.
IN TWO VOLUMES.—VOL. I.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN OF
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LIVES, ETC. ETC.

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PIZARRO.

DIALOGUE I.

ONE pleasant evening, as the Narrator of the Voyages and Discoveries of Columbus and Cortez was seated in his garden, surrounded by his children, they ventured to remind him of the promise that he had made to relate to them the conquests of Pizarro; with some little art prefacing their request as follows:

Charles. My dear father, will you be good enough to inform us who discovered the extensive countries of *Peru* and *Chili*?

The Father. That account may be the subject of our next conversation.

Henry. I am delighted to hear that; I hope it will be soon.

The Father. It may be as speedily as you please.

All. Oh then, now; now, dear father.

The Father. Peace, peace, not so fast; in order to obtain your wishes, you must take the steps that lead to them. To inspire me with spirits to make such long relations in the evening, it is necessary that I should be perfectly satisfied with your conduct and actions during the day.

Ferdinand. But how are we to know when you are so satisfied, father?

The Father. Easily; when you see no contraction on my eyebrows, my forehead smooth, and my chin rather turned upwards, then you may judge that—

Charlotte. My dear father, you have all these favourable symptoms at this moment.

The Father. Well, then, as I am satisfied with you, I am willing to give you all the pleasure in my power.

[The children expressed their satisfaction, and their father, after a short pause, began as follows.]

The

The Father. The greater part of the events which I now mean to relate to you having passed while Cortez was rendering his name famous by the conquest of *Mexico*, we must return to the period when that country was unknown to the Europeans, in order that we may trace from their first source those wonderful adventures that you are so anxious to hear.

You doubtless recollect that Columbus discovered the coast of the Continent of *America* near the River *Oronoque*, although Americus Vesputius unjustly obtained the glory of that expedition; neither have you, I hope, forgotten that the same navigator had sailed along the whole coast of the isthmus between *North* and *South America*, from the *Isle of Guanaia* unto *Nombre de Dios*, and even yet farther southward, in the hope of finding a passage to the *East Indies*. Columbus, you may remember, did not succeed in this project, and also how many dangers and vexations that skilful navigator was exposed to during his last voyage. After his death, some extraordinary characters, actuated by similar ardour, and eager to extend the discoveries

coveries already made, though with very different motives, attracted general notice. Ojeda and Nikueffa directed their course towards the Isthmus of *Darien*. (Do not forget to consult the map whenever I shall name any place the situation of which is not known to you: as yet the map of *Mexico* may be useful, though we shall soon have occasion to refer to that of *South America*.) I particularly mention these two adventurers, as each founded a colony; the first built *St. Sebastian*, the second *Nombre de Dios*.

Frederic. What is the meaning of the last name, father?

The Father. The Spanish words for the name of God.

Frederic. Why was the colony called so?

The Father. Nikueffa, on landing, found this spot so agreeable to his wishes, that, turning to his companions, he said, *Paremus aqui en il Nombre de Dios*, which translated is, *Let us remain here in the name of God*. This exclamation gave name to the colony afterwards established there.

The inhabitants of these coasts were warlike and vindictive; they suspected the designs

signs of these intrusive strangers, and did not fear to oppose them; they were skilful archers, and, in order to render their arrows more destructive, steeped them in a poison whose smallest touch was mortal. The greater part of Ojeda's companions being killed, he was forced to send an officer to *Hispaniola* to request a reinforcement. While he executes his commission, I will inform you of some ridiculous and abominable customs which the Spaniards remarked among these Indians. Several of the natives, both men and women, were deprived of the first joint of one of their fingers, a singularity, which when they inquired into, they were informed that on any one becoming either a widow or widower, he or she was obliged to be thus mutilated. Historians give no reason for this strange custom, a silence that proves their inability of obtaining any information respecting its origin. Another custom not less extraordinary, but far more barbarous, was also common among them; on the death of a widow, all the surviving children who were too young to provide for themselves were buried with her.

Charlotte. Oh the barbarous wretches!

Frederic.

Frederic. What could make them so inhuman, father?

The Father. As they had no one to undertake the care of them, the natives thought they fulfilled the duties of compassion and humanity towards these orphan children, in delivering them by a speedy death from the horrors of distress and hunger; thus, they buried them as soon as the parents who supported them closed their eyes.——

But to resume my story —— The officer which Ojeda had sent to *Hispaniola*, on his return was accompanied by a man whose name has been too famous for me to pass it in silence. He was called Nunez de Balboa, and to great understanding added the most undaunted courage. At *Hispaniola* he had been accused of some crime, and was condemned to lose his head; to escape which punishment he contrived to be put into a cask, and carried on board the vessel which Ojeda had sent. This trick was so successful, that the captain, who had received strict orders to take no one on board without the express consent of the Governor, never suspected the deception until they were above a hundred leagues

leagues from land, when Nunez left his tun and appeared before him. The captain was astonished, and with great severity of countenance declared that he would have him put on shore at the first desert island they touched at. The crew were, however, so greatly interested for him, and interceded so powerfully, that at length the captain relented, and Nunez proceeded with them to *Darien*.

Balboa was not long in this country before he was distinguished for his prudence, fortitude, and activity: from his advice the Spaniards first adopted the plan of forming an establishment at the mouth of the *Darien*, which is even to this time called *Santa-Maria-el-antigua-del-Darien*.

Charlotte. What a long name, Papa!

The Father. It is commonly abridged, and called *Santa Maria*.—Nunez rendered himself so necessary to his companions, that at length they elected him for their governor; from which period his restless and ambitious spirit sought every occasion to ensure the continuance of his power, and to render himself conspicuous by useful discoveries, or important conquests. With these views he made

frequent excursions in the neighbouring districts, contracted an alliance with several of the Caciques, and forced others, who resisted him, into submission. Among the first was one named Komagre, who received Balboa and his companions with the utmost kindness, and whose son, remarking the insatiable avarice of the Spaniards for gold, collected a considerable quantity, and presented it to them. But the young Indian, remarking that the greedy Europeans did not hesitate to quarrel with each other respecting some grains of this metal as they were weighing it in portions among them, advanced, and indignantly overthrew the scales and the gold they contained, saying: "Is it possible you can suffer yourselves to be thus agitated by so worthless, and to me despicable an object? But if the accumulation of gold has alone influenced you to quit your country, and to disturb the tranquillity of a peaceful nation, I will direct you to a country which produces more than even you can wish for, however extravagant your desires."

Which now, my children, appears the savage? Is it the peaceable Indian, who tramples

ples on the gold, or the oppressive and avaricious Spaniard, who, to acquire it, is ready to bathe his hands in the blood of his brethren? Is it the man who condemns the covetousness of such a licentious banditti, or those banditti themselves, who, trampling on the laws of nature, humanity, and justice, stop at no crimes to satisfy their unbounded avarice? The inference, my children, is not hard to draw. The hint that had escaped the Indian respecting the country from which such quantities of gold were to be obtained, was sufficient to excite the covetousness of the Spaniards, who requested to know its name and distance. They received for answer, that it was a large and powerful kingdom, and situated towards the South.

Charlotte. Ah, father, I am sure they meant *Peru*.

The Father. You are right. The Indian also added, that they must not expect to find, with their small number, an easy entrance into a kingdom whose monarch commanded a numerous and warlike people that would not fail to repulse them. Such was the first information they received of *Peru*, and which im-

pressed Balboa with the idea that as yet he had not sufficient power to undertake such an enterprise; but the inclinations of his companions increased with the difficulty, and he resolved to make the daring attempt as soon as he should receive reinforcements from *Spain*. It however pleased Providence for some time longer to avert the storm which threatened the Peruvians. The vessel that Balboa had sent to *Hispaniola* had been wrecked on the coast of *Yucatan*; the crew had succeeded in reaching the land, but it was only to meet with a more dreadful fate; they fell into the hands of the savages of that coast, who sacrificed them all to their gods except two, Aquilar and another.

Nicholas. Was it not him that Cortez found in that country?

The Father. It was: you know his adventure, it is therefore useless to relate it. Balboa in vain expected the return of the vessel he had sent; and to complete his misfortune, he received news that his enemies had succeeded in criminating him to the Court of *Spain*, and that in a short time a strict investigation would be made into his conduct. The
courage

courage of most other men would have failed under such a disagreeable circumstance; Balboa endeavoured to surmount it. He well knew, that the only means to reinstate himself in the opinion of the Court was to profit by the overture he had received from the son of Komagre, and to discover a country which, from the account he had received, was far superior in riches to any yet explored. But his colony was feeble, and his little army in the most deplorable situation; how could he then dare to attack a powerful kingdom, supported as he was only by a few adventurers, and those indifferently armed? Yet this step was absolutely necessary for his own future safety. This reflection was sufficient to Balboa, who did not fail to inspire his daring companions with the same ardour and intrepidity that he himself possessed.

The whole of his force consisted of an hundred and sixty men, and some packs of dogs, who were bred for that purpose, and taught to attack and destroy the unhappy natives. What pitiful resources to accomplish the vast designs of Balboa!

The son of Komagre fulfilled a promise he had made to serve them as a guide, and they departed on their hazardous enterprise.

DIALOGUE II.

THE Father. Although the proposed end of Balboa's journey was to reach *Peru* with his little army, yet he had also other views, in the success of which he was warmly interested. The young Komagre had informed him, that towards the south, at about the distance of six furs, by which he meant six days' journey, he would find another ocean, that surrounded the rich country to which he was conducting the Spaniards.

Balboa surmised, and with reason, that this might be the sea that Columbus had in vain sought to discover, and which by steering westward would lead to India. The hope of making so important a discovery, that had
escaped

escaped the search of so great a navigator, inspired him before hand with courage to brave all the dangers and obstacles that threatened so hazardous an enterprise.

John. Was it difficult then to cross so narrow an isthmus?

The Father. Nature, in order to shelter the isthmus of *Darien* from the dashing waves of both oceans, has defended it by a chain of high mountains contiguous to the *Cordilleras* or *Andes*, which extend to a great distance into *North America*. These mountains were covered with such thick forests, that they would have been impenetrable to men less determined than the Spaniards. The valleys which separated the mountains were in parts swampy, and in others covered with water from the excessive rains, which in these melancholy regions continue nine months of the year. You may easily conceive how unhealthy so damp a climate must be, and how it must engender reptiles and insects; toads, serpents, crocodiles swarm on the ground, and the trees are covered with ants, which devour the verdure; the air is obscured by clouds of flies and gnats, of a size unknown in Europe,

and whose sting is more painful than that of either bees or wasps. Torrents dashing from the tops of the mountains, and overwhelming all in their course, inundate the valleys, which in consequence can only be crossed with the utmost precaution and labour: add to all these inconveniences the thickness of the atmosphere, which is so excessive that it frequently occasions sickness, and even death. From this description you may form an idea of the courage necessary for such an enterprise as Balboa's, with such slender resources. — Their first halt was in the district of a Cacique with whom they were in alliance; and from thence they advanced towards the mountains into the dominions of an Indian chief, who at first fled with his people, until, being informed of the object of their voyage, he returned and sought to gain their friendship by presenting all the gold he could collect. At length they reached the most toilsome part of their journey, the mountains; where a powerful Cacique, informed of their arrival, had assembled a numerous army to oppose the progress of these bold adventurers.

The

The Spaniards advanced without fear towards them, when some deputed Indians came forward to question them on the object of their march, at the same time ordering them to retire without delay. This command not being complied with, the Cacique appeared a moment after giving his signal for combat. He was distinguished from the rest by a cotton habit, while his people were entirely naked. All was then confusion; the Indians fell upon the Spaniards with loud shouts; but they were scarcely within gun-shot, when Balboa gave the command to fire. The noise of the explosion, and the fall of the wounded, had its usual effect; for so great a terror seized upon the minds of all, that they immediately dispersed, not venturing a second time to face enemies whom they truly believed to be armed with thunder and lightning. Many of the runaways were overtaken and slain, and those who escaped the sword of the Spaniards were for the greater part torn in pieces by the dogs. The Cacique was among the first; and his town, if some miserable huts can be called so, was taken without resistance and given up to pil-

lage. The gold that fell into the hands of the Spaniards on this occasion reconciled them to the fatigues of their march, and encouraged them to persevere through the difficulties they had to encounter.

In this new conquest Balboa left those of his companions who from illness contracted from the inclemency of the climate were unable to proceed farther, and with the remains of his little army continued his way. Almost incredible difficulties opposed his designs, but the bodies of the Spaniards appeared composed of iron, and their souls of steel. With unshaken courage and constancy they surmounted every danger, persevering in a manner that can scarcely be conceived by men so susceptible and delicate as those of the present day. Hunger, thirst, heat, cold, all conspired to add to the horrors of a route scarcely practicable even to wild beasts; but the Spaniards surmounted all. Ever ready to brave danger, at the head of his army was Balboa, sustaining patiently the want of food, and of all the necessities of life, with the meanest of his soldiers. His example inspired an universal ardour,
and

and no one murmured to follow a leader who in his own person gave such convincing proofs of fortitude.

Twenty-five days had elapsed since Balboa began his march, yet he had not advanced farther than a man walking an ordinary pace might have done in six days in a beaten path like ours in Europe. At length they reached the foot of a mountain, from the top of which the Indian informed him he would see the unknown ocean. Balboa caused his army to halt, and alone climbed the mountain, unwilling that any of his companions should share with him the honour of so important a discovery. The soldiers watched his every step with anxious eyes and palpitating hearts, until they saw him attain the summit, when, with the gestures of a man frantic with rapture, they beheld him throw himself upon his knees. The Spaniards comprehended the signal, and hastened to join him—eager to share the satisfaction of their captain, and with him to enjoy the prospect before him.

Delighted with the view of the ocean they followed the example of their leader, thank-

ing God for an event which could not fail to crown them with immortal honour, by the imminent advantages it would procure to their country. The Indians in the mean time were astonished: they could not comprehend why the sight of the sea should inspire the white men with such unbounded raptures; but their amazement increased when they saw the ceremonies with which Balboa afterwards took possession, in the name of the King of Spain, of the South Sea and all the countries appertaining. Large hillocks of stones were amassed, on which were erected crosses, and the King's name was cut on the bark of the surrounding trees. I must here digress to inform you that Ferdinand was still living.

Peter. In what year was this discovery made, father?

The Father. In 1513, consequently five years before Cortez left *Cuba* for the conquest of *Mexico*.

The ceremony of erecting the crosses was no sooner over, than they ran in crowds to the shore. Balboa, sword in hand, entered the sea as high as his middle, addressing the Spaniards and Indians as follows: "I call
you

you all to witness that I have taken possession for the crown of Spain of this ocean, and all the lands that are washed by its waves, and am ready to take an oath to defend with my sword the right and sovereignty of the King, my master."

I know not, my children, whether in this case you think like me; but whenever I represent to myself a set of adventurers taking possession of a country or a sea to which they have no right or claim, I am at once inclined both to laugh and weep; for, what can be more ridiculous than to endeavour to persuade us that such vain and fantastical ceremonies can give them any legal possession of a country that has already a legitimate sovereign? And what grief must the friend of humanity feel, to view the laws of innocence and liberty trampled under foot; to see slaughtered in cold blood thousands of unhappy creatures, to whom these ceremonies are as incomprehensible as they must be ridiculous in the eyes of every man of understanding! Yet such even in our days are the only claims which frequently justify the invasions

vations and conquests of many sovereigns. But to return to our recital.

The spot in which this contemptible farce was acted, was in a bay near the great isthmus of *Panama*. You may see upon the map that it extends along the continent of South America. Balboa named it the Gulf or Bay of *St. Michael*, the latter of which it still retains. After having engaged, or rather forced, some Caciques to supply him with food and gold, he formed the resolution to examine more minutely the bay and adjacent islands, and in effect the whole coast, for which purpose he procured some Indian canoes. The natives endeavoured to persuade him to desist from this enterprise, representing that the rainy season would soon begin; but he was deaf to their council, and with eighty of his people, and some Indians, embarked in nine shattered canoes, in order to explore the unknown ocean he had discovered. It was not long before he had reason to repent this rashness; for the sea on a sudden became so agitated, that the whole party were seized with the utmost alarm; even the Indians trembled with apprehen-

apprehensions, though without forgetting any of their usual activity. Numbers leaped into the sea in order to tie the canoes together; a precaution that prevented them from sinking. At length, after excessive labour and fatigue, they reached an island surrounded by rocks, where they endeavoured to repair as well as possible their crazy canoes. But the joy they experienced at having gained this asylum was of short duration; for the tide rising soon covered the whole island with water, and reduced the Spaniards and their companions to pass the whole night up to their middle in water, and shuddering with horror lest the tide should increase sufficiently to overwhelm them. At length the light of the sun began to cheer their depressed spirits; but that satisfaction was again embittered by finding part of their canoes broken, the rest damaged and filled with water and sand, and all their provision and ammunition spoiled or washed away by the floods. Their situation, as you may easily imagine, was the most melancholy that can be conceived. Overwhelmed with the fear of danger, exposed to the most piercing cold, without any means of subsistence, and
without

without boats to reach the continent. No resource seemed remaining to save them from destruction. But what cannot the united efforts and prudence of men effect, when exposed to one common danger! Balboa and his companions, however great their misfortune, did not suffer themselves to sink under it. Fortunately in the island were several young trees, the bark of which they used to mend the leaks in the canoes that were not entirely destroyed. In these weather-beaten and shattered vessels they again put to sea, the Indians swimming before them, and in this critical situation at length reached the coast.

The danger, however, was not yet past; Pressed by hunger they entered the district of a Cacique, where the Indians assured them they would meet with plenty of provisions; but the chief, attended by a number of his subjects, instead of giving them food came to oppose their progress through his lands. The Spaniards urged by hunger, and their dogs pressed by the same motive, were regardless of danger, and, falling on the defenceless Indians, repulsed and dispersed them. A great number were left dead on the spot; the remainder

mainder were many of them wounded, among whom was the Cacique.

This bloody conflict terminated, both parties wished for peace; the Cacique sent his son to the Spaniards with provisions, gold, and pearls, the sight of which in an instant banished all animosity. The Cacique himself joined them soon after, and, seeing the avidity of the strangers for gold and pearls, informed them that they would find great numbers of the last named article in an island not more than five miles distant. As for gold, he informed them that a country situated to the southward produced considerable quantities, but at the same time persuaded them not to embark on the pursuit until the rainy season was past. The Spaniards were, in this instance, wise enough to restrain their insatiable avarice; the dangers they had just escaped were perhaps a useful lesson, and made them resolve to follow the advice of the young Cacique. In consequence they entreated Balboa to suffer them to return to the colony; a request he readily granted, as many of them were sick and unable to serve. But in order to form a more exact judgment of those countries

tries, he resolved to return by a different route from which he came. During this journey the Spaniards had several combats to sustain against the natives of the mountains, and on their arrival at *Santa Maria* were nearly all exhausted with fatigue and sickness.

Among all the companions of Balboa during this memorable expedition, none more particularly distinguished himself than a man named Pizarro.

Frederic. I am glad my father is going to tell us of Pizarro.

The Father. You may consider him for the first time appearing on the scene where hereafter he is to perform so considerable a part; but I will not anticipate events, and shall therefore return to the enterprising Balboa.

Nothing appeared so important to him as to send a confidential person immediately to Spain to inform King Ferdinand of the new discoveries that had been made, and to present him, in his name, with a part of the riches that had been acquired, in order to conciliate his favour, and to obtain a reinforcement of about a thousand men, proper to effect the conquest of *Peru*, of which he had

had now received the most accurate accounts.

This intelligence was received with transport at the Court of Spain, as they concluded they had now discovered a westward course to reach India, and should be able to rival the Portuguese in the accumulation of the wealth they had hitherto gained from thence. But, can you believe what I have next to relate? the same suspicious spirit that had empoisoned the mind of Ferdinand, against the great though unfortunate Columbus, made him equally unjust to Balboa: he considered him as too enterprising to be intrusted with the government of the countries he had discovered, or might hereafter discover; and though he resolved to forward the proposed undertaking against Peru with the greatest vigor, yet he at the same time deputed another Governor to take the place of Balboa at *Santa Maria*.

John. What ingratitude! Is it thus that Kings treat their most deserving and useful subjects?

The Father. Do you think that vice is confined to Kings, my dear John?

John.

John. When did you hear of such injustice committed in a republic?

The Father. Under what form of government, I pray you, existed Miltiades, Themistocles, Aristides, Socrates, &c. What was the fate of these great men, the honour of the age and of their country?

John. It is true that these suffered—

The Father. How frequently have I told you, my dear children, that a man of understanding and courage must expect to meet with the envy, nay, even hatred, of the greater part of his cotemporaries, and that his best actions are frequently misrepresented. His great soul is not however to sink under these mortifications: for he is amply repaid by the esteem and friendship of wise men, who alone know how to estimate real merit; nay, his own heart recompenses him; every thought, every sentiment, is a source of enjoyment, for he esteems himself; and if he raises his eyes to the supreme judge of virtue and vice, what consolation does he not then experience, and how do the vain clamours of envy sink before it!

In regard to Kings and their Ministers, we
should

should be careful of judging them with too much precipitation: if they have the misfortune to be deceived, and do not award to the citizen who has deserved well of his country the recompense due to his talents and industry, they are more worthy of our compassion than hatred; because truth cannot frequently reach them but through many difficulties that they have not always power to surmount. Unfortunate men! they seldom see but through the eyes of others. Can they tear off the mask of the vile flatterer, who conceals his interested imposture under the specious semblance of probity and honour? Or can it be wondered at that they frequently are mistaken, when even truth to reach them is often obliged to pass through the lips of the liar? Frequently the actions of the just man are punished like those of the villain; frequently do the wicked overthrow the virtuous, and reap his reward; yet perhaps both the King and the Minister, who have been the instruments of this injustice, have in reality been blameless.

Ferdinand. Ah, if I were a King, I know what I would do.

The

The Father. What, my son?

Ferdinand. The first impostor that I caught cheating me wilfully should undergo the same punishment that Asmus inflicted on the Marechal of the Emperor of Japan's Court*.

The Father. Every friend of humanity would bless thee for such praise-worthy severity; and Truth and Justice would seat themselves by thy side. But we have strayed from our narrative, and it is too late to resume it this evening. Good night, my children.

DIALOGUE III.

THE duties of the day fulfilled, the children pressed their father to resume the promised relation, and after a short pause he began as follows:

The Father. The man designed to replace

* This officer being convicted of several impostures and falsehoods was condemned to lose an ear, which was preserved in spirits, in order to serve as a warning to others who should be inclined to act in the same manner.

Balboa in the government of *Darien* was called Pedrarias. His birth was noble, his person prepossessing, and his manner polite; but the qualities of his heart did not answer to his external appearance, for his disposition was naturally grovelling and mean; a fresh example that neither virtue nor great talents are confined to high birth. He was intrusted with fifteen ships of the largest size, and an army of twelve hundred men, in order to complete the conquest that Balboa had begun. Near fifteen hundred gentlemen volunteers embarked with him, stimulated by the hope of sharing the glory of so important an expedition; in short, such considerable preparation had never before been made at the sole expence of the King.

As soon as this fleet appeared in the isthmus of *Darien*, Pedrarias sent an officer and some guards on shore to notify his arrival as Governor, and to dismiss Balboa from his employment. They expected to find this great character surrounded with a state suitable to the rank he had a right to claim; and that he would refuse compliance with the King's order, and by the force of arms endeavour

vour at once to revenge his offended honour and authority: this conjecture was however erroneous.

What was the surprise of the Spaniards to find the man, of whose power and riches they had formed such exaggerated ideas, simply clothed in a cotton habit, and employed with some Indians in covering with rushes the miserable hut which served him for a dwelling! The officer deputed by Pedrarias could scarcely believe his sight, and exclaimed, "Is it possible that a man thus meanly employed should be the celebrated and courageous Balboa?"

He however soon found that he was not mistaken; the fortitude and respect with which Balboa received the King's unjust mandate bespoke his mind truly noble, however mean his exterior: he was indeed astonished at such a proof of injustice and ingratitude, but his courage and loyalty remained unshaken. Not so his soldiers; they felt in its full force the insult offered their commander, and entreated him to support by strength of arms a post which he had earned by perseverance and danger. Balboa was not

to be moved from his purpose; and though he found himself at the head of four hundred men, completed by the reinforcements he had received from the islands, his mind was too great to return injustice by treason, and he nobly declared himself and his foldiers submissive to the will of their sovereign.

On the arrival of his haughty successor, Balboa went to meet him, saying respectfully, that he was ready to obey his commands, as the Governor whom the King had appointed. Pedrarias did not receive this as an unmeaning compliment; for he immediately dispossessed him of all the treasure he had amassed, the wealth which he had taken such infinite pains to collect, and for which he had so often exposed his life. This despicable act was committed under the ridiculous pretence that Balboa had assumed, without a legal right, the title of Governor, by which fault he had incurred a capital punishment, but which was remitted for a large fine. Balboa shuddered to see the fruit of all his labours torn from him in a moment with such flagrant injustice, but his great soul still rose superior to his oppressors. Pedrarias had unhappily arrived in

the midst of the rainy season, which even on the natives has frequently the most fatal effects. His soldiers soon began to experience the desolation of this unwholesome climate; they died by hundreds; and those who escaped the mortality were reduced to the utmost extremity, from the want of nourishment and all the necessaries of life. Deprived of their expectations of procuring immediate wealth, the whole party became discontented, and did not fail to solicit an immediate return to Spain. The Governor, in order to appease them, had recourse to a measure as fatal in its future consequences to the colony, as it at the present was to the unhappy natives. He permitted all his followers to make excursions through the country, not only to procure provisions, but to amass gold; a permission that was never more abused than in the present instance. These depredations were extended into the most distant provinces; the natives were pillaged and destroyed, or, if they escaped death, treated in the most barbarous manner. The alliances that Balboa had made with the Caciques of several districts were disregarded; and friends and ene-
mies

mies were equally pursued with unabating fury, until the very name of a Spaniard became hateful throughout this unfortunate country, and the Indians could not forbear classing the Europeans among the most cruel and destructive of all ferocious beasts.

Balboa foresaw with grief the approaching ruin of his colony, and the total annihilation of the vast projects which he had devised and planned with so much deliberation and courage. His great mind had hitherto withstood all attacks; but this last consideration overpowered his patience, and he resolved to inform the King of the rash and unadvised enterprises of Pedrarias. These complaints, which bore every mark of truth, could not fail of their impression, and the Court of Spain began to be sensible of the error they had committed in neglecting a faithful and intelligent servant, and entrusting a proud and ignorant courtier in business that was totally unknown to him. In order to repair this fault, Balboa was appointed Sub-Governor of all the coasts washed by the South Sea, and Pedrarias at the same time received orders to support him in all his enterprises, and

to undertake nothing without having first personally consulted him.

This command, dictated by wisdom and prudence, but the farther augmented the hatred and jealousy of Pedrarias towards his rival: it was however necessary to obey; and this constraint, though it clogged the power of the courtier, inspired his evil disposition with the more activity. Balboa, on the contrary, had scarcely assumed his new dignity, when with the noble frankness of a soldier he forgot his resentment and the errors of his enemy, and prepared to execute an enterprise that would ensure to the crown of Spain the possession of the mines of *Peru*. With infinite pains he succeeded in embarking three hundred men in four small brigantines which he had caused to be constructed, and with this slender force prepared to overthrow the largest and most powerful empire of the New World.

Balboa was on the eve of his departure when he received dispatches from Pedrarias, who entreated him to delay his expedition for some days, in order that they might hold a conference in a spot where he appointed to meet

meet him. Balboa, who had no mistrust, readily yielded to his desire, but had scarcely reached the rendezvous when he was seized and loaded with irons. Astonished at this treatment, Balboa knew not to what cause to attribute it: but he was not long left in suspense; the mean and degenerate soul of Pedrarias languished for the destruction of a man whose talents and services were a perpetual reproach to him, and speedily made out his accusation, which was, being a traitor, and harbouring designs injurious to the King and Government. In consequence sentence of death was pronounced against him; the whole colony, and even the judges themselves, who were the instruments of Pedrarias's cruelty, in vain endeavouring to save the life of a man so important to his King and Country, and so greatly beloved by his soldiers. The unfortunate Balboa lost his head on the scaffold.

Mathias. What hateful injustice!

Ferdinand. But that wretched Pedrarias I hope afterwards met with his deserts.

The Father. No.

Ferdinand. No! What, was not the King informed of his cruelty?

The Father. Doubtless he was. But by whom or how was he informed? By people as interested in the death of Balboa, and as jealous of his merit, as Pedrarias himself. The affair was represented to the King on the part of the Governor in such favourable colours, and the supposed guilt of Balboa so exaggerated, that his murder not only remained unpunished, but his oppressor continued in tranquil possession of his Government.

Charlotte. He will surely be punished for so vile a deed?

The Father. Undoubtedly. Where God weighs the actions of men, and recompenses each according to his deserts, he will meet with just retribution. But to proceed. This event retarded for some years the ruin of the Empire of Peru: Pedrarias was not himself sufficiently courageous to head such a dangerous expedition, and men who were did not choose to serve under so despicable, suspicious, and cruel a commander. They there-
fore

fore confined themselves to pillaging and ill-treating, as was their usual custom, the poor Indians of the isthmus of *Darien*. Ah! why did not these barbarians, who dishonoured the name of Christian, for ever forget that *Peru* inclosed in its bosom riches destined to bring desolation on its parent land, and overwhelm its inhabitants with destruction! The unwholesome situation of *Santa Maria*, and a wish to do some action that might signalize him, engaged Pedrarias to solicit permission to remove his colony to the western coast of the South Sea. This request was granted, and the foundation was laid of a city, the commerce of which for a considerable length of time rendered it one of the principal establishments of *America*.

John. Panama, I should guess, father?

The Father. Right. Here it is near the great isthmus that bears the same name.

John. But why is the name of *Panama* repeated?

The Father. Observe the word *old* is added to the first; there it was that Pedrarias established himself; the other represents the new city of that name.

Peter. Are there then two *Panamas*, father?

The Father. No. Near a hundred and thirty years ago the ancient *Panama* was attacked and reduced to ashes by an English adventurer named *Morgan*. On the re-building, it was judged necessary to give it a yet more favourable situation than the first, and accordingly choice was made of the mouth of a river called by the Spaniards *Rio Grande*: such is the origin of the modern *Panama*. I have already informed you that city was, for a considerable time, one of the most commercial in all *America*; and the reason is obvious. *Panama* was the established mart of all the merchandise that passed from Europe to *South America*, as also from thence to Europe. The traders of *Peru* and *Chili* transmitted their gold, pearls, cocoa, Jesuit's bark, and in general all the productions of this quarter of the world, to *Panama*, in order to be sent from thence by land to *Porto Bello* by the way of the isthmus. *Porto Bello* also received European goods, which were remitted to *Panama*, and from thence to *Peru* and *Chili*. Thus *Panama* was the centre of union

union for the important commerce between *Europe* and *Spanish America*. You may therefore easily conceive how distinguished a place it held among commercial cities.

Nicholas. And does it not now enjoy the same advantages, father?

The Father. Not absolutely ; for, when the Spaniards lost *Jamaica*, its new possessors the English formed a contraband commerce with the coasts of *Terra Firma*, which was of considerable prejudice to the trade of the Spaniards.

Frederic. What is the meaning of contraband, father?

The Father. In several countries the Government strictly forbids, under very severe penalties, the admission of particular merchandises ; either because they do not choose to suffer the consumption, or that they wish to monopolise the advantages arising from the traffic. Goods so prohibited are called contraband ; and, consequently, those who in spite of the laws will introduce them into a country must necessarily do it clandestinely. Thus, in the case we have been speaking of, some

doubled *Cape Horn*——You know where that is situated?

Some of the Children. Yes, here it is, near *Terra del Fuego*.

The Father. Others passed the Straits of *Magellan*, which, as you know, separate *Terra del Fuego* from *America*, and sailed up the South Sea until they could find a place proper to dispose of their goods, and receive others in exchange. It is true, the Spaniards took great pains to destroy this illicit commerce, and for that purpose kept ships, which were called cruizers, that were constantly employed in sailing up and down the coast; but the smugglers so well knew how to take their measures, that they usually escaped the vigilance of the cruizers, and landed their goods in safety.

The peace of *Utrecht* was yet a greater prejudice to this trade of the Spaniards. You are doubtless informed what war was terminated by that peace?

John. The war of the succession to the crown of Spain.

The Father. By this peace the Spaniards were obliged to ratify to the English the following

lowing privileges: 1st, That they would purchase of them only, the slaves they should want for their possessions in *Peru*. Secondly, That the English should be permitted to send annually a vessel with five hundred tons of merchandise to each fair held in *Spanish America*.—This last article at the time did not appear of great importance, but it afterwards became so, by the use the English made of the permission; for, instead of a ship of five hundred tons, they increased it insensibly until it came to a thousand; and, in order to make all possible advantage, caused it to be followed by a number of small vessels laden with provisions: but these pretended victuallers soon changed their destination, and increased their utility, being in part laden with merchandise, which was conveyed privately on board the trading ship, as her stock sold off, and thus had the appearance of her allowed lading. This contraband trade, and the increased navigation in the South Sea, soon gave so considerable a check to the Spanish traders, that *Panama* and *Porto Bello* necessarily lost much of their ancient splendour.

Mathias. This account has led you entirely from your narrative, father.

The Father. True, my dear Mathias, and it is too late this evening to resume the thread of my story; I will therefore defer it until to-morrow.

DIALOGUE IV.

THE Father. Well, my children, behold me ready to resume my narrative, which if you choose I will now continue without digression.

Some of the Children. Pray do, dear father.

The Father. Pedrarias was employed for some years in the construction of the new city, and in conquering the numerous hordes of unhappy Indians which inhabited the long isthmus which extends between the North and South Sea. Thus the project against Peru remained unexecuted, and it was not until
fix

six years after the commencement of the preparations against *Mexico*, that the plan was renewed, that is to say, in 1524. Thus far, then, my account has been preparatory to the relation of the conquest of *Peru*.

Theodore. Now for Pizarro!

Some of the Children. My dear father, pray go on; we all long to hear of Pizarro.

The Father. Alas! my children, as a faithful historian I cannot deceive your expectation, and must therefore tell you before-hand that Pizarro, the hero of my present story, is not a man formed to deserve the ardour you express.

Frederic. I am sorry for that.

The Father. His unshaken fortitude cannot fail to astonish you, and you will admire the patience with which he overcame repeated obstacles and misfortunes. You will shudder at the recital of the dangers which the courage and activity of this extraordinary man surmounted with a prudence of which history furnishes but few examples: but, alas! what are these great qualities unsupported by probity, or that sensibility and humanity which leads us to feel for others? Divested of these, they

they change their nature, and become only as a knife in the hands of a madman; and those distinguished traits, which might have dignified the possessor, and have proved an universal blessing, are degraded into rapine, oppression, cruelty, and murder. To convince you of this striking truth, and to imprint on your youthful minds, that without probity and humanity the most brilliant qualities are not respectable or revered by good men, I prepare to lay before you one of the most horrible scenes that history presents us with, a scene contaminated with the tears and blood of the oppressed Peruvians. I am aware before-hand, my dear children, that my hand will frequently tremble as I withdraw the curtain to exhibit some events of this dreadful tragedy; but notwithstanding the horror they inspire me with, I shall not hesitate to recite them, if you will previously promise to observe my injunction. It is, to form a firm resolution never to suffer yourselves to be carried away by a vain love of false glory, nor by an insatiable cupidity for gold; but to consult in all your enterprises the voice of conscience, and of an understanding en-
lightened

lightened by humanity, and the principles of a religion replete with affection and kindness to all men. Will you, my children, listen to my narrative on these conditions?

All the Children. Most willingly, dear father.

The Father. Well then, to begin. Among those who had settled at *Panama* with *Pedrias* were three extraordinary men, who henceforward must attract all our attention. The first was Francis Pizarro; the second Diego Almagro; and the third Ferdinand de Luques. The two first have been before mentioned, and the last was a priest who had acquired great riches at *Santa Maria*, I know not by what means. Pizarro was the natural son of a Spanish gentleman by a woman of loose character. His father took no care of his education, and his mother was incapable of instructing him; he therefore grew up like a wild ivy in a desert, uncultivated and unsupported by the fostering hand of education or paternal care. His employment during his youth was keeping hogs. When all these disadvantages are considered, it is not to be wondered at, that his mind was not susceptible

tible of those sentiments of humanity and rectitude, which a proper education is calculated to develop and bring to perfection in the human heart.

Notwithstanding these obstacles, and his absolute ignorance, the young Pizarro, by some internal impulse, detested his mean employment, and was led to great actions. Unknown to any one, he left his herds and commenced soldier; but his natural vivacity and his love of glory soon made him find that situation too contracted for his wishes, and he turned his thoughts to a more exalted and extensive field, directing his attention, after the example of the adventurers of the age, to the New World lately discovered by Columbus, resolving not to be an idle spectator when so many were reaping fame and honour,

Having signalized himself in an uncommon manner during his expedition with Balboa, Pizarro, notwithstanding his ignorance, was thought worthy of a subaltern command. His body accustomed to bear fatigue, he appeared either not to feel it, or to consider it as a trifle; his heart was a stranger to fear, and

and led him to rush undismayed into the midst of the greatest dangers: always at the head of his soldiers, he set them constant examples of courage and intrepidity, and the faculties of his mind were employed without ceasing in endeavouring to repair any omission or want of skill in the men under his command. He readily discovered that judgment, activity, and prudence could alone have sufficient influence to raise him from the obscurity in which he was born, and therefore he endeavoured on all occasions to exhibit undeniable proofs of these qualities. He at length succeeded, giving a striking proof, that though heretofore he had been accustomed to the most menial functions, he was equal to the task of commanding others, and capable of engaging in one of the greatest undertakings of his time.

Almagro's birth and education were not far superior: the first was base-born, and the latter one of those unfortunate children abandoned by barbarous, or perhaps wretched parents to the charity of the public. Like Pizarro, he early became a soldier, and the same disposition and thirst of glory carried him to
America,

America, which was then the universal receptacle of those who had no other resource. His courage, fortitude, activity, and strength put him on a par with Pizarro : but in frankness and loyalty he far surpassed him; for, unfortunately, those qualities formed no part of the character of Pizarro, whose wary disposition frequently degenerated into craft and trick, and whose prudence commonly bore the marks of hypocrisify and falsehood.

I shall say little of that infamous priest De Luques, but when obliged by necessity, for, which among you will not shudder to see a minister of the gospel, a man designed to preach the pacific doctrine of Jesus Christ—who will not, I repeat, shudder to see such a man profaning his hands by kindling the torch of war, spreading ravage and fire throughout an unfortunate country, and slaughtering in cold blood millions of his innocent brethren? Oh, shame! Oh, disgrace never to be effaced or forgotten! that the comfort of the afflicted, the asylum of the wretched, the Christian religion, should nourish in its bosom monsters born for the destruction of mankind! Such were the deadly plants

plants produced from a pestilential and bloody soil, which were one day to occasion the ruin of the devoted Peruvians. These three associates resolved to employ all they had gained, in the prosecution of their expedition; and as Pizarro was the least wealthy, he was nominated to the most difficult and dangerous part of the enterprise, the command of the little army which was to discover and conquer *Peru*. Almagro engaged to supply him from time to time with reinforcements and ammunition, and the priest was to remain at *Panama* to exert his art and hypocrisy, in order to keep the Governor in temper, and, generally speaking, to transact all that was there necessary towards forwarding their plot. The Governor's consent being obtained, Luques, that disgrace to the sacerdotal habit, took a step, which to every thinking person must appear abominable and highly contemptible. He repaired to the chapel, where, after having celebrated mass in the manner of the Catholic Church, he administered the sacrament to himself and his two companions, sharing the consecrated bread among

among them. "This was an act," says a writer of eminence, "to sanctify by oath, and the holy name of the God of Peace, an enterprise whose basis was to be founded on murder and pillage." What worthy spirit will not rise indignant thus to see religion, instituted for the happiness of mankind, and for the promulgation of virtue among them, thus made, in the hands of a hypocrite, the instrument of vice!

The formidable power destined to overthrow the empire of *Peru* consisted only in one vessel, which carried a hundred and twelve men; and with this single ship Pizarro left *Panama* on the 14th of November, 1535, steering towards the south.

We now, my children, must have recourse to the map of *South America*, which begins, as you see, at the Isthmus of *Darien*, and extends as far as *Terra del Fuego*, the utmost part of the South of *America*. The first country beyond *Darien* is, as you know—

Nicholas. Terra Firma.

The Father. And the next—

Theodore. Peru.

The

The Father. Proceed.

Henry. Chili, and the Magellan country.

John. And which is separated by the Straits of Magellan from Terra del Fuego.

Charles. Why is the last called so?

The Father. Because, when it was first discovered, there were volcanoes in the country.

Charles. Are they ~~not~~ there now, father?

The Father. I should suppose not, as none of our modern voyagers make mention of them. The climate of America was then little known, and our adventurers had fixed on the most dangerous season for their enterprise.

John. How so?

The Father. They sailed at the time when the periodical or trade winds were against them.

John. I thought that between the tropics the trade wind was constant; yet this country is situated there.

The Father. True, John; but I must inform you that these trade winds are only on the

the ocean, and deviate from their regular course on the coasts of the continent. If you wish it, my children, I will inform you of the nature of the different winds that agitate our globe.

The greater part of the Children exclaim, Pray do, father.

The Father. Be attentive then, and you will find all I have to inform you of very easy to comprehend.

Between the tropics, and even some degrees farther towards the North and South, in the middle of the ocean is a wind always equal and invariable. Where the sun darts perpendicularly on the earth, this wind is directly East. Higher to the North, towards the tropic of Cancer, it becomes North-East; and lower to the South, near the tropic of Capricorn, it is South-East. Such is the trade wind of which we have spoken, and which only blows upon the ocean, but is lost as it approaches within a hundred or sometimes sixty miles of the solid parts of the earth.

John. I now comprehend why the *Little Antilles*

Antilles have been divided into Windward and Leeward Islands.

The Father. I am curious to hear your reason.

John. The Windward Islands are thus called, probably because the trade winds reach them, and the Leeward Islands because the trade wind ceases before it can attain them.

The Father. Remark this, my children; it is worthy your attention.

Peter. But from what cause, father, do those trade winds arise?

The Father. That I hope to explain to you. What is the consequence in winter of throwing open the windows or doors of a well-warmed apartment?

Peter. A large quantity of cold air rushes in.

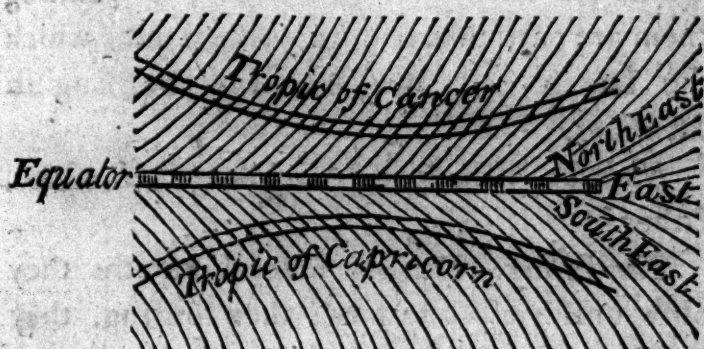
The Father. What is the cause of that, Peter?

John. That my father has before explained.—The air of the heated apartment is much more rarefied, and consequently more attenuated and lighter than the exterior air; thus it cannot sufficiently resist the latter, which rushes

rushes into the apartment as soon as the door is opened.

The Father. Justly observed.—The same thing happens daily with the air between the Tropics. The sun in some places entirely rules it; in others, being less perpendicular, its power is diminished. This air must therefore necessarily be a great deal warmer than that which is not between the Tropics, and which receives the rays of the sun only in an oblique direction. The air between the Tropics thus heated becomes attenuated and rarefied, and consequently lighter. This species of operation completed, the exterior air, more dense and heavy, acts continually upon it, penetrating it to restore the equilibrium; and as the sun inclines or seems to move from East to West, the air on both sides must necessarily join and penetrate by a double oblique direction: that which rushes from the North, must join in the direction of a North-East wind, and that which rises from the South, must penetrate in the direction of a South-East. When these winds meet and clash, or repel each other, they must naturally produce

produce an Easterly wind, as you may convince yourselves by the following figure, supposing the Equinox where the sun is exactly above the Equator.



John. But why do the trade winds cease to blow near a continent?

The Father. Inform me, friend John, why our little river *Bille* is frequently, during the summer, as calm and unruffled as a lake?

John. Because the sluices are shut.

The Father. The trade wind ceases from the same reason when it reaches land. The mountains serve in the same manner as the sluices to oppose its progress, and it not only abates near the coasts, but also to a good distance into the sea. Thus our river *Bille*, when the sluices are shut, not only is retarded

in its course near the obstacles that oppose it, but also much higher up.

There are also other winds which are peculiar to certain countries at stated periods. These are called *periodical winds*; and among them are particularly distinguished those which the Dutch call *Moussons*, and the English *Monsoons*.

Nicholas. What peculiarity have these winds, father?

The Father. During several months they blow uniformly one way; then shifting, they continue the same period in the opposite direction. These winds are peculiar to the coast of *China*, and in several countries among the Indian islands; their change of direction is usually succeeded by tempests and hurricanes. Navigators observe the spot where they are most dangerous, and are careful to avoid them.

A second kind of these periodical winds are those which only blow during stated hours of the day, and which are most peculiar to the coast of *Mexico*, and that of *Congo*, in *Africa*; where, during the day, they experience a westerly wind blowing from the

sea, and during the night an easterly wind from the land. At *St. Domingo* it is the same, with only this difference, that the easterly wind, which comes from the sea, begins blowing about eight or nine o'clock in the morning, but is replaced towards evening by a westerly wind. Before and after sunset the weather is perfectly serene.

The last kind of winds I shall mention, which agitate our globe, are those which are peculiar to *Europe*, and distinguished by the name of *Variable*. These winds blow from all points, and are alternately hot, cold, damp, or dry. The causes which produce them are too uncertain for any general or determined rule to be assigned.

I hope, my dear children, that you will not be dissatisfied with my having dwelt so long on this subject, which must give you a more exact idea of the nature of the globe we inhabit, and which is the common country of all men. After the knowledge of God, mankind, and ourselves, I cannot conceive any more useful than the present.

After this explanation, you may form an idea of the difficulties and dangers that at-

tended navigators before they were acquainted with the nature of these winds. Laborious and long experience can alone have furnished the knowledge they now possess. Pizarro wanting this information, had fixed upon the season most unfavourable for his voyage, as it was that when the periodical winds blew from the South to the North. But enough for to-day, to-morrow we will continue.

DIALOGUE V.

THE Father. Pizarro, after having sailed for the space of seventy days, during which he experienced nothing but contrary winds and bad weather, found that he had scarcely passed the *Island of Pearls*, which you see in the middle of the *Gulf of Panama*, a voyage that at present is made in a few hours. He cast anchor on different parts of the coast; but all he saw and heard was so discouraging, that

that almost any other man would have relinquished an undertaking which had so slender a prospect of success.—Wherever he turned his eyes the scene was dark and repellent; in one spot impenetrable forests, whose trees appeared as ancient as the earth that bore them: in others deep bogs and dangerous marshes, and countries entirely covered with water; and in every district hordes of savages, who were prepared to repel any intrusion. Danger threatened on every side, hunger assailed them, and no prospect of gold, no vestige of the promised riches appeared to support their sinking spirits. Their want of provisions was so great, that they were necessitated to have recourse to the bark and young branches of shrubs to satisfy the cravings of nature, however little nutriment these afforded.

These inconveniences, added to the severities of a wet and unwholesome climate, swept off great part of the soldiers, and left the remainder so weakened and dispirited, that Pizarro found himself obliged to turn back and wait for the promised reinforcement from Almagro. He accordingly sailed for *Chuchama*, situated opposite *Pearl Island*.

Almagro had in effect collected seventy men, with whom he was marching to support his associate Pizarro; but unfortunately the adventurers missed each other in their route. Almagro hoped that Pizarro had already reached the country which was the object of their desires, and accordingly directed his course that way; but on the road learned the news of his misfortunes, the inhabitants where he landed making the same obstinate resistance that they had before made to Pizarro. In one of these conflicts Almagro lost an eye by an arrow, which obliged him to return; but at *Pearl Island* he was informed of the destination of Pizarro, and hastened to join him.

This interview in some measure softened the remembrance of the troubles they had encountered, and strengthened their resolution to continue their enterprise: without further deliberation, therefore, they determined to put to sea. This time they were more successful than the former; it is true they encountered the same difficulties, but patience, perseverance, and courage surmounted them, and they at length succeeded
in

in reaching the *Bay of St. Matthew*, near the coast of *Quito*. They landed at *Kacames*, not far from the mouth of the *Emerald* river. What a difference did they find in this country from those they had before seen ! *Quito* is not only the largest and most fertile province in *Peru*, but also one of the most delightful in the known world ; and though almost immediately under the line, the air is so mild and temperate, that a perpetual spring blooms around, and appears to realise what fiction bestows on the golden age.

Ferdinand. How is it, father, that *Quito* possesses an advantage that other countries, exposed to the same sun, are deprived of ?

The Father. It is in part occasioned by its vicinity to the *Cordilleras*, which are covered with perpetual frost and snow ; in part also by the *South Sea*, which washes the coasts of this country. Thus, whichever way the wind blows, it brings with it agreeable and salutary breezes ; neither is it darkened or corrupted by those myriads of insects which desolate the greater part of the other countries of *America*. In its fertile soil all seeds flourish, bloom, and come to perfection ; and, to com-

prise all in a few words, spring, summer, and autumn reign at once in this terrestrial paradise—the trees budding, bearing bloffom and fruit at the same time.

Theodore. What a delightful country! I wish we were there, father.

The Father. Providence, in order not to give to this kingdom so decided an advantage over others, and to deter men from thinking too highly of the pleasures of a world which they should only consider as a preliminary state of trial to render them worthy of a superior destination—Providence, I repeat, has counterbalanced by some contrarieties the many delights which I have described to you. Frequently towards the middle of the day the most serene weather is suddenly replaced by dreadful storms; heavy and black clouds obscure the horizon, and prognosticate such hurricanes as are unknown in our climate. At this sight fear takes possession of both man and beast; the sky appears in flames; lightnings rend the clouds asunder, and thunder crashing and resounding from the tops of the mountains is re-echoed in the valleys, shaking the earth with such horrible convulsions, that
universal

universal desolation is spread around. Fortunately for the inhabitants, these dangerous phenomena are preceded by certain indications, which enable them to use precautions to escape general destruction.

Charlotte. Dear father, what are they?

The Father. The air is at first agitated, and its movement accompanied by a humming and confused noise. The birds appear suddenly seized with a vertigo, which causes them to flutter and fly backward and forward in the air, unable to direct their flight to any certain point, but by starts and involuntary motions dashing themselves against trees, walls and rocks, totally devoid of their natural instinct. Soon after this first warning a subterranean noise is heard, rendered more horrible by the yelling and howling of dogs, which thus testify their dread of the impending danger. All other animals preserve a dull and heavy silence, stretching out their legs as if to stand firm, lest the earth should sink from under their feet. On these tokens the inhabitants quit their dwellings, and flee into the open country; the screams of the women and children, the universal darkness

that covers the face of the earth, the roaring of the unchained winds, and the universal commotion of all nature, forming a spectacle of the utmost horror and dismay. *Lima*, the capital of *Peru*——

John. Dear father, I remember that dreadful account; the city of *Lima* has been four times desolated by these terrible shocks.

The Father. True, till one in the year 1747 reduced the city to a heap of ruins.

Ferdinand. But is it not rebuilt?

The Father. Yes, and with greater precaution than the first time: instead of high and substantial houses, which increase the danger in the time of earthquakes, they now construct them in the manner of the original inhabitants of the country; they consist of only one story, consequently are far less exposed to these dreadful commotions. Well, *Theodore*, what say you? Shall we go to *Quito*, or to *Lima*?

Theodore. Thank you, father, I had rather stay where I am; the description of the earthquakes has cured me of wishing to live in *Peru*.

The Father. We must be satisfied then with travelling

travelling there in idea, in order to inquire into the conduct of Pizarro and Almagro after their meeting.

The aspect of this delightful country, and the sight of the habits of the natives, made of woollen and cotton, together with the ornaments of gold and silver with which they decorated themselves, persuaded the Spaniards that they had attained the summit of their wishes; but the fatigues of the voyage, together with the maladies that followed, had so greatly diminished their number, that the remainder did not dare to attempt penetrating into the interior of *Peru*. After many wary deliberations it was at length resolved that Almagro should return to *Panama* to procure a reinforcement, and that Pizarro, during the interval, should remain in the little island of *Gallo*, which you may perceive is near *Terra Firma*.

On the arrival of Almagro at *Panama*, he found that a great change had taken place; Pedrarias was dismissed from his government, and his place supplied by a man named Pedro de los Rios. This new governor possessed little genius or spirit, therefore conceived the

project of our three adventurers as so extravagant, and the execution so chimerical, that he strictly forbade any further levy of men. Nor was this all; he dispatched a vessel to bring back Pizarro and his companions. Thus once more circumstances for a short time protracted the fate of the Peruvians, who were far from suspecting the ruin that hung over them.

The vessel reached the Island of *Gallo*; and how think you Pizarro acted?

Mathias. Returned to *Panama*.

The Father. No.

Henry. Seized upon the vessel, and sailed towards *Peru*.

The Father. No. Notwithstanding the murmurs of his soldiers, who were wearied with the hardships they had encountered, and dispirited by the remembrance of their companions who had already fallen in the enterprise, Pizarro boldly refused to obey the Governor, and, unsheathing his sword, drew a circle round him, with a firm and undaunted voice commanding all those who wished to leave him instantly to quit it, that he might be at once able to distinguish his brave and faithful

faithful comrades from the cowards that shrunk from danger. He had the vexation to see the greater number of his little army immediately forsake him; thirteen Spaniards, and one mulatto, men resolved like their chief to encounter every danger, alone placing themselves by his side. Even these were sufficient for Pizarro; and with such courageous and faithful adherents he resolved to wait until the zeal of Almagro could procure him fresh reinforcements.

Frederic. What is a mulatto, father?

The Father. Your brother John will inform you.

John. A mulatto is a man whose father is an European, and his mother an African.

Peter. Shall I inform you what a Metis is?

Frederic. If you please.

Peter. It is those whose parents were Europeans and Indians.

Theodore. I thought these were Creoles.

John. No, surely; Creoles are the descendants of Europeans established in America.

The Father. Well explained; and in my turn I must inform you that the most esteemed

ed inhabitants in America are the European settlers; next are considered the Creoles, then the Mulattoes, then the Negroes: the Indians and natives are the most despised class.

But to return to our adventurers.—As the Isle of *Gallo*, from its proximity to the continent, could not be considered as a safe retreat, and as it was also destitute of fresh water, Pizarro resolved to land in another island he had discovered, and to which he had given the name of *Gorgon**, on account of the terrific appearance it presented to navigators, even at a considerable distance out at sea. He undertook this voyage in so shattered a vessel, that himself and his men were in constant danger of perishing; yet they were fortunate enough to reach the island, where the manner of life they were necessitated to lead was sufficient to have driven to despair men less accustomed to fatigue and danger.

The Isle of *Gorgon*, situated, as you see, in the fourth degree of North latitude, is represented by all navigators as a most desolate

* The *Gorgons*, according to the fabulists, were three sisters, whose hideous deformity and snaky locks were so terrific, that they turned the beholders to stone.

and inhospitable spot. Its impenetrable and gloomy forests, and its lofty and craggy rocks, at once strike the beholder with terror and awe: its climate is the most unhealthy that can be conceived, and rarely doth the sun pierce the heavy and black clouds which constantly hang over it. The air, impregnated with pestilential vapours, swarms with insects and reptiles, and is so poisonous that it occasions sickness, and frequently death, to those who respire it. Think of all these inconveniences, add to them the absolute want of the necessaries of life, and the dread of being doomed to this dreadful spot without hope of deliverance, and then judge of the courage and greatness of mind of Pizarro and his companions, who could prefer this desolate island to giving up their intended enterprise.

The first employment of our islanders was to construct a canoe, which would facilitate their catching of fish; and Pizarro, to satisfy his own wants and those of his brave companions, laboured with the utmost alacrity to procure this kind of subsistence. Neither the burning heat of noon, nor the painful stings
of

of the insects that swarmed around him, nor the most stormy weather, had power to deter him from this laudable pursuit. At other times he penetrated the thick forests, and whatever game he could procure carefully brought and shared with his friends. Many among them fell sick, and all were so greatly reduced, that they must inevitably have perished, had it not been for the indefatigable cares of their chief, whose body and mind seemed superior to all attacks of fortune.

Five months had already passed without any assistance having reached them; strength and patience were nearly exhausted together, and they had formed the desperate resolution of trusting themselves to a raft, and endeavouring to gain the continent by the great *South Sea*. They had scarcely begun to construct this hazardous machine, when they discovered a vessel in full sail making towards their island, in the road of which she at length cast anchor. Their joy at this discovery may be more easily conceived than related, and was greatly increased when they learned it came from their friend Almagro at *Panama*, he having at length interested the Governor in their favour.

Who would suppose that men, the remembrance of whose misfortunes were yet so fresh upon their memories, could have formed any other resolution than that of returning to *Panama*? Not so these Spaniards; the vessel being arrived, they forgot all they had suffered, and resumed their ancient ardour, embarking joyfully on board, and directing their course, not to *Panama*, but to the South-East towards *Peru*.

The fate of the unfortunate Peruvians was now decided; for, after a navigation of twenty-one days, Pizarro reached that part of the coast of *Peru* where the city of *Tumbes* is situated, and cast anchor in its roads.

Frederic. What is a road, father?

The Father. I will explain it. You already know what a port is; therefore represent to yourselves that space of water which is immediately beyond the place where the vessels are in safety from the winds and waves. This water, at the opening of the port, is not so deep as the rest of the sea.

Henry. I did not know that.

The Father. This part of the sea beyond the port, sheltered from the wind by the turnings

turnings of the shore—this part, I repeat, of less depth than the rest, and consequently more calculated for vessels to anchor in, is called a road. Vessels too deeply laden to enter into the port remain there in safety; as also those which have left it, and wait a favourable wind to take their departure; or those which are detained by contrary winds.

Ferdinand. But by the name road are we not to understand a port?

John. No; my father at *Elfinore* showed me a road without a port.

The Father. Yes; but *Elfinore* is not alone in that particular. The greater part of you, perhaps, have remarked at *Trawemunde** the same circumstance.—But enough for to-day; let us leave Pizarro in the roads of *Tumbes* until to-morrow, when, if the wind be fair, he shall land.

* The road of *Lubec* is the mouth of the *Trawe*.

DIALOGUE VI.

HENRY. Well, dear father, the weather is fine, and the wind fair.

The Father. True; you have all performed your stated duties, which is the wind necessary to help me forward in my narrative; I will therefore set sail.

Pizarro had no sooner cast anchor on the coast of *Tumbes* than he was visited by some Peruvians, who appeared never weary of admiring the singular construction of the vessel, and the bearded white men whom it conveyed to their shores. At length they left the ship precipitately, but speedily returned with several canoes laden with provisions, and beverage of various kinds, all contained in vases of gold and silver. What an enchanting sight for the Spaniards, who were even yet more greedy of gold than food! It was the Cacique of the district who exercised this hospitality towards the predetermined destroy-

ers.

ers of his country. He also entreated them to land, and kindly offered to furnish them with any assistance in his power.

The Spaniards were impatient to accept this invitation, in order to fill their avaricious hands with some of the wealth of the country; but Pizarro, with his accustomed prudence, suffered only two to land, a Spaniard and a negro. On their reaching the shore the Peruvians surrounded them, admiring and examining both as beings of whose existence they had not the most distant idea.

Charlotte. Of what colour are the Peruvians?

The Father. They are of a copper complexion. The negro appeared particularly to interest them; and resolved to be convinced whether the colour of his skin was natural, they washed him; and testified by their looks and gestures the utmost astonishment when they found it was not to be removed.

All that Pizarro's messengers observed while on shore confirmed them in the opinion of the great riches of the country. In the houses of their friendly hosts vessels of gold and silver were employed for the meanest purposes, and

and the Peruvians were profusely ornamented with the same metal. Their clothing, made of cotton or woollen, and several other articles formed with great skill and industry, proved that this people was far more polished and intelligent than the other nations of *America*.

Nicholas. From whence did the Peruvians procure worsted, since they had no sheep?

The Father. It is true they had not sheep, but they had another animal which produced wool, and which in many respects resembles the sheep.

Some of the Children. I know what it is.

The Father. Inform me then, if you please.

The Children. It is the Lama.

The Father. From whence had you this information?

John. Do you not recollect that when you related to us the New Robinson Crusoe, you informed us that the Lama was a native of *Peru*?

The Father. I am pleased to find that you have not forgotten that anecdote. Did I then inform you of the different names of that animal?

John.

John. It is also called the Peruvian sheep.

Theodore. And the Camel-sheep, from the similarity of its neck to the neck of that animal.

Peter. It has yet another name.

The Father. The Guanako.—If you wish to hear more of this animal, I will give you some account of it.

All the Children. Pray do, father.

The Father. The resemblance of this creature to the sheep and camel is not striking, and consists only in its having wool like the first, and a long neck like the second. Its head is small, and not unlike that of the horse; a slit in the upper lip serves it to throw its saliva to the distance of ten paces, and which it usually does against those who offend it. Its height is about four feet, and its length from five to six; but the neck alone furnishes the half of this measure. The colour of these animals in a wild state is a pale red; those that are domesticated are usually black, white, or spotted.

This animal is of the utmost utility, not only on account of its fleece and flesh, but also for its aptitude in learning to carry burthens. Loaded to even the weight of two quintals

quintals (two hundred weight), it climbs the steepest mountains; its pace is indeed slow, but sure, and it will proceed without rest for four or five days successively; but that period elapsed, it falls into a sleep that lasts for twenty-four hours. Its nourishment is easily procured, simply consisting of the herbage it finds in its path; and it can live entirely without drink, from the abundance of its saliva.

Its character is mild, serious, and phlegmatic; its patience and equality of disposition never failing but with its strength; then neither soothing nor blows can make it stir. This obstinacy is said to be so great, that they will sooner beat themselves to death against the ground than yield.

The Peruvians held the Lama in the utmost estimation, and cherished it as a friend and comrade. When a young one was taken for the first time to be employed in the labours of its master, its introduction was attended with a splendid feast: all the relations and friends of the possessor were invited, the Lama was adorned and crowned with ribbons, and two whole days were entirely devoted to the celebration

lebration of this first exercise of its strength. During the entertainment, from time to time parties left the dancers, and other guests, and ran to the stable or shed that contained the Lama in order to fondle it, and address it in the most tender accents. The feast over, it was employed; but the ornaments which it wore during its inauguration were never removed until they fell off by time.

Theodore. Why is not this useful animal brought into Europe?

The Father. Several have been transported hither, but the attempt was never successful; all those that were sent from *Peru* to *Spain* died soon after their arrival.

Theodore. How did that happen, father?

The Father. Spain is very hot, and they had been accustomed to the keen and fresh air of the *Cordilleras*.

Mathias. I think it probable they might live in Switzerland, in the vicinity of the Alps.

The Father. That idea is not new; it has frequently been spoken of; I could wish to see it executed.

Frederic. If ever I go to *Peru* I will not neglect

neglect to bring some back with me. I shall then try if by placing them upon the *Blockfberg* I can succeed in preserving them.

The Mother. I entreat, my dear Frederic, that you would persevere in this resolution; and I flatter myself that you will present me a pair, if you have room enough for them in your ship.

Frederic. I shall oblige you with pleasure, and will not forget my promise.

The Father. Pray don't. But to continue our history. The Cacique of the country fixed his attention particularly on a gun which the Spaniard carried in his hand, and requested to know the use of it. The European speedily satisfied him, by firing against a board, which he pierced through. Several of the Peruvians immediately fell on the earth with fear, and the remainder made the air resound with their cries; even the Cacique himself testifying the utmost astonishment. A short time after, ordering a vase to be brought filled with some beverage unknown to the European, he presented it to him, saying, "Drink, since thou art powerful enough to make such a noise; in truth, thou

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thou resemblest the thunder of the sky." The accounts Pizarro received from his messengers convinced him, that to attack so numerous and well governed a nation as *Peru* with his handful of men would be madness; he therefore found himself under the necessity of protracting his enterprize, and only coasting along the shores of this delicious country, in order to obtain a more perfect knowledge of it. With this intention he weighed anchor in order to continue his course southward.

They again cast anchor at *Payta*, a port situated under the fifth degree of south latitude, consequently seventy-five miles on this side of the equator. The fame of Pizarro had preceded him: he had been represented as the chief of a company of amiable and pacific white men with beards, who went about doing all the service they could devise. Oh! why did not the Europeans endeavour to merit the good opinion the inhabitants of the New World entertained of them?

This reputation, which they had not yet forfeited, was a great advantage to them; wherever they landed they were received by the simple innocent natives in the most gene-

rous and friendly manner; they endeavoured even to prevent their wishes, and the departure of the good white men inspired universal sorrow.

A sailor named Boccanegra was so greatly interested by the innocence and humanity of their manners, that he formed the resolution of remaining among the inhabitants of this delightful country, and accordingly put his design in execution. Pizarro, informed of his flight, caused him to be sought after: he was found surrounded by his new friends, who were entreating him to persevere in his determination, not only by words but the most tender caresses. They had placed him in a litter, and carried him in triumph through the country. It was in vain that the Spaniards endeavoured to dissuade him from his purpose; he persisted in continuing in the new country he had chosen, and where they were at length obliged to leave him; and though I have examined very accurately, I could never find that the Spaniards were afterwards acquainted with his fate.

At length Pizarro, still directing his course southward, arrived at *Santa*, where he yielded

to the entreaties of his crew to return to *Panama*, in the hope of obtaining reinforcements that might enable him to conquer the countries he had discovered. The extent of land which I have hitherto called *Peru* was not at the period alluded to known under that general and determinate appellation. The Spaniards were the first that named it so, from a river called *Biru*, and by degrees the whole country took the name of *Peru*.

Pizarro was possessed of indisputable proofs of the riches of the country that he had discovered, as divers vases of gold and silver, cotton and woollen stuffs, lamas, &c. He had also brought with him some young Peruvians, whom he meant to use as interpreters in the next expedition he purposed to engage in; for he flattered himself the Governor Los Rios, influenced by the sight of the gold, and informed of the riches of *Peru*, would not hesitate to forward the plan that himself and his associates had formed. Pizarro was however deceived: Los Rios was cautious of weakening his new colony by supplying fresh recruits for this enterprise. He also conceived that these daring adventurers,
once

once masters of the country they sought to conquer, would not fail to render themselves independent. These considerations engaged the Governor to decline affording them any assistance. You may readily suppose the vexation this refusal cost them; their fortune and credit were exhausted, but their courage and zeal still possessed all their former energy; these were above being shaken by disappointment. On mature consideration they found there were no means left for them to succeed in their designs, but by a direct application to the Court of Spain, to lay open their plan, and thereby obtain the necessary succours to carry it into effect. It was therefore resolved that Pizarro should make a voyage to Spain, in order to solicit a force sufficient for his purpose.

It was with the utmost difficulty that the three associates could collect money to defray the expence of this voyage. It was however at length effected, and Pizarro appeared at the Imperial Court of Charles the Fifth, with a dignity that astonished all who were informed of the meanness of his birth, and his total want of education. With energy

he related the efforts and labours of his associates ; he next spoke of his expedition, described the riches and delightful situation of the country which he meant to add to the dominions of Spain, and concluded by laying at the King's feet the presents he had brought, and which served as vouchers for his truth.

Charles and his ministers were delighted with this discourse, and Pizarro was received with distinguished kindness, and immediately obtained the force he wanted for the conquest he meditated. Resolved to profit as much as possible by the disposition of the King in his favour, he asked, and obtained, not only the appointment of Governor, but also was nominated Supreme Judge of the whole country ; though before his departure from *Panama* he had promised to solicit that post for his friend Almagro.

Ferdinand. What a despicable action !

The Father. True, and ought to have overwhelmed him with shame. I have already informed you, that in the life of our hero, Pizarro, you would find several defects which darken and disgrace his better qualities, and render him contemptible to worthy men.

You

You will be surpris'd to hear that a man gifted with such exalted talents could frequently disgrace them by the meanest cupidity, and the blackest ingratitude.

Charles. I suppose he never even thought of Ferdinand de Luques.

The Father. Yes; but the reason perhaps was, that he had nothing to apprehend from him on account of his profession. He asked and obtained for him the episcopal dignity of all the countries they should conquer.

The number of men granted to Pizarro was 250, and he had offered, at his own expence, to furnish whatever was necessary for their equipment. But however small the corps, this was infinitely above the means of Pizarro. Happily for him, Cortez was just arrived at the Court of Spain to solicit fresh forces; and as he was interested for all enterprising characters, and had also been a comrade of Pizarro's before the expedition to Mexico, he readily advanced him the money necessary to complete a company of one hundred and twenty-five men. With these Pizarro privately stole from the port of Seville, and set sail for Darien, as he was well aware

that he was closely watched, in order to discover whether he fulfilled all the conditions of the treaty.

Among the small number of soldiers that Pizarro conducted with him were four ardent and courageous young men, whom I must particularly mention, as they were afterwards materially concerned in the affairs of *Peru*.

Three of them were brothers on the mother's side to Pizarro, and the fourth was his uncle. Ferdinand, Juan, and Gonzales, were the names of the first mentioned; the last was called Francisco d'Alcanara. Remark these names.

Pizarro had no sooner reached the Gulf of *Mexico* than he directed his course towards *Nombre de Dios*, where he landed, and proceeded to *Panama*; but the satisfaction and pleasure of Almagro in seeing his comrade, and learning his success at the Court of Spain, were speedily banished when he understood his perfidy towards him.

This honest warrior immediately declined all alliance with a man so devoid of honour; and who had rendered himself so contemptible on his account; but at length, at the repeated

repeated sollicitation of the Priest de Luques, and the entreaties of Pizarro himself, who promised to resign the contested dignity, he resumed his former share in the enterprise, and preparations were carried on with the utmost vigour.

Their mother here broke upon the narrative by declaring it was too late to proceed that evening, and the party separated for the night.

DIALOGUE VII.

WITH infinite pains our adventurers at length succeeded in collecting the following force for their intended conquest : three small vessels, and an hundred and eighty soldiers, among whom were thirty-six horsemen. It was about the beginning of the year 1531 that Pizarro with this handful of men set sail, all animated with a spirit and courage that gave

them a conscious superiority which numbers do not always possess. The plan was to land at *Tumbes*; but the contrary winds prevented their reaching that coast, and obliged them to cast anchor in the bay of *St. Matthew*.

Tumbes is separated from this last mentioned place by a distance of fifty miles, which Pizarro resolved to travel by land. The length of the way was not the most difficult part of this journey; it was necessary to pass a number of large rivers at their openings, consequently in the immediate spot where they have the most rapidity and width; but even the sea itself, had it crossed the way of Pizarro, would hardly have sufficed to retard his progress, so great was his intrepidity, and which his example did not fail in some measure to communicate to his soldiers; so that the journey was undertaken without dread or delay. The cupidity and avarice of the Spaniards increased the difficulties of this long and toilsome march, and their own conduct redoubled the evils they had to encounter: instead of seeking to conciliate the esteem and benevolence of the natives, they drew on themselves their hatred and detestation by the
acts

acts of cruelty and pillage they were continually perpetrating. The first consequence of this shameful conduct was their incurring the general indignation of the natives; the second, their being entirely bereft of the necessary supplies of food which they had before received from them. At length, weakened by hunger and the various inconveniences they met, by the way, they reached *Coaque*, which is immediately under the line. You will find it on the map.

The same greediness and ungoverned fury that prompts the famished wolf to rush on the defenceless and peaceful flock, possessed also the Spaniards when they entered this devoted city. They drove the inhabitants from their dwellings, and seized upon all they possessed, not only of food but also a considerable number of vases of gold and silver, and a species of precious stones called Emeralds, which are peculiar to the country.

John. Doubtless it is from these stones that the river which flows on the coast is called *The Emerald River*.

The Father. It is so.

Frederic. Of what colour are those stones, father?

The Father. Green. Surely you must have seen some of them?

Frederic. Yes, I have, set in rings.

The Father. The pleasure this rich booty occasioned the Spaniards, made them forget all the troubles and difficulties they had undergone on their journey, and they were eager to follow their chief wherever he should command. Pizarro himself was also well satisfied to find the pompous description he had given to his companions of the riches of the country in some manner realised; and resolved to profit by an event which would act as a stimulant to obtain fresh recruits to his feeble army, he immediately dispatched one of his vessels to *Panama*, and another to *Nicaragua*, under the command of men devoted to his service. These were instructed to give the most brilliant description of their happy success; to multiply the advantages already reaped from their expedition; and to support their assertions a part of the plunder was to be produced; a sight that could not fail to interest

interest the avaricious minds of the Spaniards and procure fresh recruits.

Henry. I think you have not before spoken of *Nikaragua*, father?

The Father. I believe not. Consult once more our map of the Gulf of *Mexico*. All the country between *Honduras* and *Veragua* is called *Nikaragua*; at the bottom of the coast on the side of the South Sea, near the Lake of *St. Sebastian*, is the colony of the same name, and which was founded by the Governor *Pedrarias*. To this *Nikaragua* Pizarro sent one of his vessels, while the other failed to *Panama*. During their absence he proceeded along the coast with an undaunted intrepidity that perhaps is unequalled in history. Terror preceded his path, and the inhabitants fled before him wherever he came; while his audacious banditti, unmolested, continued to pillage and strip every dwelling they met with. These atrocities continued unresisted until they reached the isle of *Puna*, in the Gulf of *Quayaquis*, which you may see on the map. Pizarro considered the situation of this island so highly favourable for the refreshment of his troops, that he resolved to

wait there for the return of his vessels, and accordingly ordered some rafts to be constructed to transport his soldiers thither. To his great astonishment, in this island he found a species of men of very different character to what he had heretofore met with on the Continent: they were courageous and warlike, and preferred hazarding their lives to abandoning their natural possessions. The Spaniards here met with the most vigorous opposition to their design; and Pizarro, notwithstanding the superiority of his weapons and military knowledge, was full six months before he could entirely subdue these brave defenders of their country.

The vessels deputed to *Panama* and *Nikaragua* at length returned with reinforcements; precious indeed to Pizarro, though very inconsiderable in number. Each vessel brought thirty recruits, to which were added two officers of respectability, named Benalkasar and Sotto. These were sufficient to engage the daring Pizarro to penetrate into the interior of a country which contained more square miles in its circumference than there were heads in his army.

He

He returned to *Terra Firma* in order to proceed to *Tumbes*, but learned with vexation that he should be received in that country in a very different manner from the first time. The robberies and violence committed by his men were spread about the country, had reached *Tumbes*, and changed the former kindness and friendship of the inhabitants into horror and detestation. They took up arms, and every attempt to appease the before hospitable and peaceable Cacique was unavailing.

Pizarro at length resolved to give him battle, and, accompanied by his brothers, at the head of fifty horsemen passed a river that separated him from the enemy's army, and, travelling all night through the most unfrequented roads, by day-break reached the Cacique's army. The unhappy Indians, astonished and dismayed, were seized with terror at the sight of the unknown creatures which for the first time presented themselves before them, each horse and his rider appearing to form but one monster. The Indians thus alarmed and dispirited were unable to withstand the attack of the Spaniards; some were cut

cut to pieces, and the rest dispersed. The Cacique on this defeat, finding the inutility of his efforts and the superior power of his enemy, humiliated himself to the conqueror, sent presents, and requested peace.

Theodore. Was this Cacique King of the whole country?

The Father. No; he was a kind of governor, or vassal, that commanded the province of *Tumbes* in the name of the King his master.

John. I cannot conceive how the King could be so supine as not to send an army against the Spaniards.

The Father. The question will be soon resolved, if you consider the state of *Peru* at that period. If you wish it, I will give you a short account of that kingdom.

All the Children. Pray do, dear father.

The Father. Willingly; but I must first apprise you that the history is mingled with improbabilities, if not entirely fabulous, as you will not fail to observe.

According to the account we have received from the Spaniards, the kingdom of *Peru* had flourished for above four centuries. Its founders were Manko-Kapak and his spouse

Mama-Ozello. It has ever been conjectured that these two personages, called Incas, a name their successors still retain, and which means Chiefs or Lords, were of European origin—perhaps some Europeans, tempest-beaten on the Atlantic, and wrecked on the coast of *Brazil*. A long series of years, and various revolutions, may have obliterated the particulars of the event, and obscured the tradition with falsehood.

Peter. But what foundation is there for this surmise, father?

The Father. None that is absolutely conclusive; such as they are I will relate them. First, they inform us, that the Peruvians, in the same manner as the Europeans, divided the year into three hundred and sixty-five days, and that they also possessed some astronomical knowledge which had a strong affinity with ours. The Spaniards who conquered the kingdom also assure us, that all the family of the Incas were fairer than the other natives of the country, and that several among them had beards; which is an undoubted sign of an European origin. They likewise relate, I know not on what foundation, that
from

from time immemorial there was a received tradition in *Peru*, which announced that white men armed with invincible weapons should cross the seas, and conquer the whole kingdom. Be this account as it may, there is however no dispute but that Manko-Kapak and his wife Mama-Ozello were the founders of this kingdom. These first Incas, different from the natives in their height, colour, and clothing, appeared suddenly in the country, without any one knowing from whence they came; they called themselves children of the Sun, and said they were commissioned to render the inhabitants virtuous and happy. The country they chose to reside in was *Cusco*. You will find it in the thirteenth degree of south latitude. Manko collected the dispersed and savage inhabitants of this mountainous country, taught them to cultivate the earth, the method of clothing, and of sheltering themselves from the injuries of the weather by erecting huts. Ozello took charge of the women; taught them to spin worsted and cotton; and by her example inspired them with a taste for domestic duties.

These

These two legislators were recompensed for their care by the fidelity and obedience of their subjects, and at length succeeded in changing a barbarous people into a civilized nation.

The first care of Manko was to abolish the custom of sacrificing human victims to their idols, and to establish a religion more calculated to inspire sentiments of gentleness and affection. With this view he taught them the existence of *one* only God, who loved mankind as a common parent, and who was highly gratified by their humanity and kindness to each other. This Supreme Being, all powerful, benevolent, and just, was the Sun.

Some of the Children. The Sun!

The Father. I do not wonder at your astonishment to hear such proper ideas of the perfections of the divinity applied to a being, which, like so many others, is but the work of his hands, and formed for the good and comfort of his creatures; yet we must allow that this error of the Peruvian legislators is, of all the errors of the same kind, one of the most pardonable; for man, left to the weakness

ness of his own imagination, may be readily supposed to direct his adoration to that immense and luminous globe, whose cheering influence gives universal life to all.

"Benevolent Sun!" exclaims an author, "source of light! king of the firmament! how easy was it for man to mistake thy origin, and to raise altars to thee, who excitest his first sentiments of admiration and astonishment! The Pagan in refusing to pay thee homage becomes culpable towards nature. In the Temple of *Cusco*, on the banks of the Ganges, and the *Hidaspes*, the assembled priests, crowned with flowers and clothed in white, chant hymns to thine honour! The black Ethiopian salutes thee when thou sheddest on his country the first rays of light, and testifies his innocent joy by lively and animated dances. Are not both these people more enlightened than the stupid Egyptian, bending his knee before the ox *Apis*, or burning incense in honour of the Crocodile and *Cayman*?"

From the Sun the Incas pretended to derive their celestial origin, and therefore denominated it the God of the Peruvians. To it they

they erected temples, in which the Incas alone had the honour of acting as priests, and the daughters of their race were devoted to the same worship. The latter lived in a community resembling that of the Vestals among the Romans, or Nuns among the Christians, and were forbidden to marry except they chose a husband from the family of the Incas.

It appears that they also considered the Moon as a divinity, but of a mortal nature, and far inferior to the Sun. Nothing can be more singular than the opinion they had of eclipses. Whenever this event happened, they imagined the Moon was sick, and that it might possibly detach itself from the sky, and crush the world in its fall. The apprehension of this accident filled them with fear and terror, and the means they used to avert the dreaded evil were superlatively ridiculous. They made a hideous noise with different instruments, as drums, trumpets, &c. no doubt intended to rouse the sick Moon from her lethargy. They also tied up their dogs, and by dint of repeated blows forced them to bark and howl, in order that their part might not
be

be wanting in the ceremony; for, among other errors, the Peruvians supposed that the Moon had a particular affection for dogs. They likewise excited their children to mingle their screams with this tumultuous din; adding themselves between whiles in a mournful accent, "Mama Kuilla!" which means, Dear Moon, our Mother. As the eclipse decreased, the hope of the Moon's re-establishment revived; and on the total disappearance of this phenomenon, the horrible din gave way to exclamations of joy and pleasure, all expressing their thanks to Mama Kuilla for not falling and crushing the inhabitants of the earth.

Frederic. What silly people, father!

The Father. The recital I shall give you to-morrow of the laws and customs established by the Incas will attract all your attention. In the continuation of the narrative your humanity will be excited for the good Peruvians, whom I am convinced you cannot fail to love, and to be warmly interested in whatever concerns them.

DIALOGUE

DIALOGUE VIII.

THE Father. We will to-day begin our discourse with the laws of the Peruvians, and their civil administration.

"Love each other like Brethren."

This sentence was the fundamental base of the code of the Incas, and the principles and consequences which arose from it were as wise as varied. It established throughout the country measures dictated with so much prudence and discernment, that the inhabitants could not avoid regarding themselves as members of the same family; a principal point in this wise legislation.

All the land of the country was divided into four parts. One, said the Incas, belongs to the Sun, and it is our duty to cultivate it in common; the produce to be appropriated for the use of the priests and consecrated virgins, and whatever it may be necessary to purchase

chase for the support of divine worship. The second part, the care of which shall alternately be confided to all, belongs to the aged, widows, and orphans; the weak, sick, or those employed in the service of their country. The third part appertains to the sovereign, and the nation entire shall labour in its cultivation; for it is but just to repay and support those who devote themselves to the common security, who endeavour to shield us from danger, and consider whatever may contribute to the general good. The fourth and last part of the land shall be divided in portions, according to the number of persons each family consists of, in a manner that all may obtain sufficient nourishment.

Such were the decrees of the first Incas, who, on appointed days, led their subjects as joyfully to labour as though it had been to a merry meeting; and in truth it might in reality deserve that name, for the hours of relaxation were passed in mirth and dancing, and their toils began and ended with the sound of instruments. The land devoted to the Sun, that to the warriors and infirm, that to the Incas, and also that to his people, was alternately

nately cultivated with mutual good-will, and industry.

These labours in common, joined to their innocent recreations, inspired them with a brotherly affection and confidence in each other. The whole nation seemed one large family, the Inca the father of all; and whose precepts were observed with as much veneration as if they had been the immediate decrees of their divinity, the Sun. If any one had the misfortune to act contrary to the established laws, he immediately hastened to reveal his fault, testify his repentance, and request the punishment due to his error. This frankness, this amiable confidence, may give you, my children, an idea of the men whom Europeans treated as savages.

Some of the Children. Excellent people! Who can avoid respecting them?

The Father. I am glad that you think them such; and have no doubt, as I continue my narrative, that your esteem for them will increase. Property, which too generally stifles fraternal affection, was abolished from among the Peruvians. Even the land which was

appropriated for the maintenance of each family was not considered as private property, a fresh distribution taking place at a stated period, according to the increase or diminution of the persons for whose use it was designed. Gold and silver were in no estimation among them, except for their hardness and durability, being from that circumstance more serviceable for vases and household uses. Money and commerce were unknown among them, each readily giving his neighbour what he considered as superfluous to his own family; or, at most, a simple exchange supplied their limited wants. Idleness of all vices most attracted the attention of the legislators; for they well knew it was the root of all others, and not only destroyed the body but the soul: therefore they punished it without mercy; for the idler is not only culpable by precipitating himself into misery, but also guilty towards society by sharing those necessities the acquirement of which he has not equally laboured to obtain. The old men, and the infirm, though unable to toil, were notwithstanding usefully employed;

ployed; the care of the fields that were fresh sown devolved on them, to protect the seed from the birds and insects.

You will admire the manner in which they tried the young Incas before they honoured them with the title of Children of the Sun, the highest and most respected distinction they could obtain. The recital of these trials will not only be agreeable but useful to you, particularly if for a moment you suppose yourselves in the place of the Incas, and compare your own strength and courage with theirs, and judge, if exposed to the same trials, whether you would possess equal patience and fortitude.

The Incas appear to have adopted the principle, that a man who pretends to command others should surpass them in strength, virtue, and skill; they were far from supposing that birth alone could ennoble, and the youth who aspired to honour among them must first deserve that qualification by his conduct. I shall now give you some account of these trials.

When the young Incas had attained the age of sixteen, they were placed in a house
designed

designed for that purpose, and where were assembled the old men of the same family, whose virtue, understanding, and experience rendered them competent judges of the merit of others. The trials of the Incas began by a fast of six days, during which the only nourishment they received was a small quantity of raw maize and water. All the relations of the young people were present, by their own example teaching them to persevere, and endeavouring to inspire them with fortitude and constancy; at the same time supplicating their common parent, the Sun, to support them in the arduous trial, and lead them to virtue.

Those who sunk beneath this first essay were declared unworthy of the honour of being named Children of the Sun, and the family of Incas rejected and abandoned them for ever.

On the contrary, those who had withstood this trial, were doomed to encounter a new one as soon as their strength was recruited by a nourishing diet. At a mile and half from *Cusco* was a hill, which the natives regarded as sacred; here the old men repaired
with

with their young disciples, who were to run without stopping to the city. Their parents dispersed by the way, animated them by their cries, exhorting them to perish rather than to halt in the road to glory. The same disgrace that attended those who failed in the first trial, likewise attached to those who declined the second.

A third essay succeeded for the hitherto successful candidates: they were separated into two parties, one of whom were to attack a fortress, and the other to defend it. It is true that the points of their weapons were blunted; but their courage, ardour, and desire to signalize themselves in the eyes of their countrymen, usually carried them so far, that it was seldom the combat ended without bloodshed, and frequently cost several of them their lives.

This general battle concluded, they tried their strength two and two together; wrestling, the exercise of the lance, the dart, the bow, the sling, succeeded each other. Nor was this all: on completing this toilsome task, they were to pass ten or twelve nights on guard, and shame was the portion of him who suf-

ferred himself during this interval to be surprised with sleep; he was scourged with rods, and degraded for ever from the rank of his fathers.

Added to all this, it was impossible, however expert, to escape blows, as they in some measure formed a part of the trials; those who had the care of their initiation striking at random on their bare legs and arms. The smallest token of sensibility was strictly forbidden; an exclamation, the most trivial sign of impatience, or expression of pain, were punished with shame, and total exclusion. "For," said the judges, "is it probable that a man who is frightened at a few blows, can withstand the lance of the enemy when he shall be called upon to defend his country?" They went yet farther than this: bold and experienced warriors employed all their skill to surprise these young men into some symptoms of terror. Sometimes they rushed unexpectedly upon them, with their lances directed against their foreheads, as if they meant to pierce their heads; at other times they struck as if meaning to hew off a leg or arm at a stroke. The youth who on these essays shrunk back,

back, or made an involuntary motion with the threatened limb, was on the instant excluded. "For," said the judges, "how can the man who is frightened at weapons in the hands of his friends withstand those of his enemies, who he is assured mean, if possible, to overcome and slay him?"

After these different essays of fortitude, patience, and intrepidity, and this trial of qualities necessary for a warrior, the young Incas were obliged to give a proof that they had learned to provide themselves with the accoutrements proper for a warrior. They were to produce from their own labour, a lance, a club, a dart, a sling, a bow and arrows, a quiver, and a pair of shoes, whose soles were of leather, and fastened to the foot and leg by binders of worsted.

While these trials lasted, and they lasted several months, they were visited by their chiefs, and attended by those who had the care of their conduct, who were perpetually animating them to persevere; they recalled to their memory the divinity of their origin, and the distinguished actions of their ancestors; they endeavoured to convince them

of the duty which obliged them, in case they were called upon, to sacrifice themselves for the good of their country: they represented in the most fascinating colours the mildness and humanity necessary to be observed towards the citizens, and particularly what they owed their inferiors; but, above all, they strove to inculcate a proper sense of justice, that first of social virtues; representing with energy, that power and strength were only given by the divinity in order to protect the weak and innocent from the attacks of the wicked.

The immediate heir to the throne was not exempt from these trials; he was even proved with more severity than the rest of his race: "for," said the judges, "it is but just that the man who pretends to command others should be superior to them in virtue and courage. These advantages may indeed afford him pre-eminence above his fellows, but not birth, which, without patience, generosity, fortitude, and activity, is of no estimation. It is necessary," added they, "that a prince should himself endure all the fatigues and inconveniences of war, in order that he may hereafter properly

perly estimate the labours of those who shall render him the same services." During the whole of the trial the hereditary Inca was meanly clothed, he walked barefoot, and exhibited all the exterior of poverty, in order that he might form a proper idea of the feelings of his distressed subjects, and one day truly merit the distinguished name of *Huachakujak*, or friend of the poor.

The trials completed, the mothers and sisters of the brave candidates came to present the first mark of honour, which consisted in decorating their sons and brothers with buskins. The King then appeared, accompanied by the chiefs of the empire, and all his relatives; at which sight the newly-elected heroes prostrated themselves, and remained in that position during a speech the King made, in which he represented to them that it was not sufficient to be honoured with the title and accoutrements of a chief, but by the example of their ancestors they were bound to render themselves worthy during their lives. He then recommended to them to act with mildness and generosity to those beneath them, as by these virtues they would prove the di-

vinity of their origin, and render their lives as brilliant as the rays of the Sun, their father, who had only sent his children on the earth to render mankind good and happy.

After this discourse the Incas approached the King, and knelt before him, in order to receive the most distinguished mark of their royal extraction, and which consisted in having their ears pierced with his own hand. The King performed this operation with a gold needle, which he left in the opening, in order to enlarge it; after which they kissed his hand, then turned to the Inca of the highest consideration next the King. This chief pulled off the buskins their mothers and sisters had presented them with, and put them on others that were particularly worn by the Incas; they then saluted them on the right shoulder, saying, "A child of the Sun who has given such proofs of virtue deserves to be killed." After this ceremony they were presented with the royal bandeau, or fillet, which was in the form of a crown, and ornamented with flowers. They then put into their hands a battle-axe and a dart, saying, "These weapons are given thee in order that thou mayest
punish

punish traitors, cruel, idle, or wicked men, and in short all disturbers of the public repose."

Thus concluded the ceremonies of the initiation of the Incas, after which all their parents and friends hastened to embrace them, and to congratulate them on their happiness and the fortitude that had rendered them worthy of such a distinction. Joy and satisfaction were painted in every face, and the following days were passed in feasting, dancing, and singing.

What now are your sentiments, my children? Could you sustain similar trials? What think you, Frederic?

Frederic. I do not know, father; when I am sixteen I shall be a better judge.

The Father. Well, we must then wait that period to form an estimate of your courage and character. In the mean time I rejoice in having related to you what man is capable of when he is firmly resolved to persevere. There is no faculty of his body or soul but what is equal to the most astonishing exertions. What happiness do you enjoy to be yet of an age when those resources may all be turned to advantage? Why cannot I recall the years

of my youth, and turn all instruction to profit! With what pleasure would I sustain the greatest fatigues to strengthen my body, and inure my soul to danger, to the troubles and different accidents that agitate the life of man!—Alas! this project is formed too late, I must remain the rest of my days what I am at present. Doubtless this idea is melancholy: but the hope of living again in you shall console me for having in my youth been deprived of the advantages you possess. Supported by the thought that I shall succeed in strengthening your bodies, and furnishing your minds with knowledge useful to yourselves and society; or, in few words, that I shall render you men that may be the ornament and glory of your fellows, shall fulfill all my desires. Oh God! let not this hope be disappointed, but grant me the only consolation my heart is now capable of enjoying.

[A short pause ensued, after which their father continued.]

It is time, my children, to return to my narration. The account I have given you of the Peruvians, of their government, and particularly

ticularly of their chiefs, the Incas, will confirm you in the astonishment you must feel to see a nation so tranquil, well regulated by wise laws, and governed by a prince so courageous and informed, suffer its rights and peace to be intruded upon by a handful of Spanish adventurers, without scarcely opposing their audacity; which defect of exertion is however too true, though it remains to inform you of the cause.

Eleven kings, all brave, good, and moderate in their desires, had governed Peru since the death of Manko-Kapak, the founder of the empire. None of these had sought to extend their limits; content with what they possessed, they defended their own possessions without endeavouring to intrude on their neighbours. The laws of Manko, respected by his successors, were equally revered by his subjects, who, modelling themselves by the example of their king, lived content and happy. This happiness, however, was at an end as soon as a prince fired with ambition and a thirst of glory ascended the throne:

This unhappy man was Huana-Kapak,

twelfth

twelfth king of *Peru*; he is represented to have been a brave and intrepid warrior, and to have deserved that distinction. He conquered the great kingdom of *Quito*, and thus doubled the extent of his dominions, but at the same time sowed the first seeds of decline and ruin; for, in order to insure to himself the entire possession of this new territory, he married a daughter of the late Sovereign of *Quito*—a step directly opposite to the example of his predecessors, who, according to their sacred institution, had never married out of the family of the Incas. The people are ever ready to follow the example of their Sovereign; if he tread under his feet the laws of his country, he may rest assured that his subjects will soon do the same. This may in some measure account why, on the arrival of the Spaniards, the Peruvians had ceased to be that prudent and happy people they were heretofore while the goodness of their laws restrained and maintained them in an equal state. This digression does not however develop the cause of that insensibility into which the whole nation seemed plunged at the arrival of the Spaniards, whose paths
differed
were

were marked by rapine and violence; I must therefore inform you of it.

Huana-Kapak, of whom I have before spoken, left two sons by different wives; one by the daughter of the Sovereign of *Quito*, and the other by a daughter of the family of Incas. Atahualpa, or, as he is sometimes called, Atabalipa, was the son of the first union; Huascar of the second, more legitimate, because the marriage of his parents was conformable to the laws. Huana-Kapak divided his states between his sons; to Huascar he bequeathed the ancient kingdom of *Peru*, and to Atahualpa the province of *Quito*. This division was an entire infringement of the laws, which strictly forbade any to aspire to the crown who were not immediate descendants from the Incas both on the father and mother's side.—This division, I repeat, displeased the whole nation; and Huascar, who readily perceived it, resolved to force his brother to relinquish the sovereignty of *Quito*. Atahualpa was far from submitting calmly to this intrusion; and thus the ambition and thirst of power of the two brothers first kindled the sparks of civil war in

in a country, which till now had been the seat of peace and happiness. Huascar had on his side the law, and the voice of the people; Atahualpa had on his an army of intrepid and experienced warriors, which his father had left at *Quito*. Success was therefore not long doubtful; the war concluded by the defeat and taking of Huascar, the justice of whose cause and right were obliged to yield to the superior strength and good fortune of Atahualpa.

Insatiable love of power, to what excesses dost thou lead man, when once he has given up his heart to thy sway! Atahualpa, in order to enjoy the possessions of his brother without controul, caused to be put to death all the children of the Sun who might have any future claim on the kingdom; the life of Huascar alone was spared, not from any motive of humanity or brotherly tenderness, but because his safety was necessary to appease the people, who were already too justly irritated for them to have suffered such an act of barbarity to pass unrevenge. Huascar's name was also necessary to further his brother's future plans.

Such,

Such, my children, was the state of *Peru* when the Spaniards first attempted to subdue it. The Chiefs of that unhappy nation were too much employed with their personal interests to consider the dangers that threatened their country, or to repulse the enemy that already ravaged its borders. Add to this, that both *Huascar* and *Atahualpa* hoped to draw to their party these formidable strangers, from whom they expected to derive considerable benefit.—Can you now conceive the reason of that inactivity the Peruvians testified in so critical a situation, which required not only their most resolute but vigorous defence?

Peter. It is now accounted for, father.

The Father. Woe to that state, and woe to that society, which is disturbed by domestic feuds! All its happiness will vanish, all its power yield, at the approach of the most feeble enemy. The continuation of my narrative will illustrate this truth. Farewell till to-morrow.

DIALOGUE IX.

THE Father. Pizarro left *Tumbes*, still proceeding Southward, until he reached the mouth of a river to which our map gives the name of *Piuru*.

John. It is near *St. Michael*.

The Father. True; *St. Michael* is the first colony the Spaniards established in *Peru*. Pizarro thought the situation so convenient for a settlement, that he resolved to leave a part of his small army there; while, with the remainder, he proceeded into the interior of the kingdom.

During the time he was projecting how to execute this plan, he received a message from *Huascar*, entreating his assistance against *Atahualpa*. By the ambassadors that made this request he learned the first intimation of the divisions that distracted *Peru*, and immediately conceived the cause why he had been suffered to proceed so far without interruption.

tion. This news gave him the highest satisfaction, as his daring and enterprising spirit conceived the most sanguine hopes from the confusion. Pizarro was not wrong in his conjectures; for what can be more easy than to subdue an empire whose internal strength is employed to destroy itself? He resolved therefore to profit by circumstances so favourable to his views, and advanced towards *Kaxamalka*, where Atahualpa was encamped with the chiefest of his troops.

He had proceeded but a few leagues, when he was met by messengers from that Prince; but whose mission was better understood by the presents he had sent than the discourse of his ambassadors. They had notwithstanding used the precaution to engage as interpreter a young man whom the Spaniards had taken at *Puna*, and whom they had baptised by the name of Philipillo: but he had not been with them long enough to learn much of the Spanish; added to which, the polished language of the Peruvian Envoys appeared above his comprehension. There would, in consequence, have been some difficulty in explaining this embassy, had not the presents I mentioned

tioned rendered it intelligible; for all they could comprehend else was, as interpreted by Philippillo, some words meaning peace, and an invitation from the Inca to the Spaniards to join him, and contract an alliance. The presents consisted in fruits of various kinds, well-wrought cloths, gold and silver vases, precious stones, and particularly a pair of richly wrought buskins and gold bracelets, which Pizarro was to ornament himself with, that the Inca might distinguish him at first sight.

Pizarro received this invitation with great pleasure, and continued his route with confidence, sending his brother Ferdinand and Sotto before to compliment the Inca in his name. Wherever he passed the natives were eager to do him honour, and render him all the service in their power, supplying him with provisions in abundance. The respect and attention of the Peruvians were extended even to the horses of the Spaniards; for, remarking that they gnawed and champed their bits, they immediately supposed that these, to them extraordinary creatures, fed upon metal, and hastened to supply them with gold and silver in profusion. The avaricious Spaniards,

niards, whose interest it was to leave them in this error, with avidity seized upon these precious meals, the value of which they knew how to appreciate.

During this interval, Ferdinand and Sotto reached the camp of the Inca, which was at about the distance of a mile from *Kaxamalca*. The principal officers of that Prince came to meet them, and soon after a corps of Indians, armed in order of battle, advanced to do them all possible honour. Sotto, who doubtless mistrusted their intentions, spurred his horse, and came suddenly up to the troop; who, alarmed at a sight so new and terrible as a man galloping upon an unknown beast, dispersed in a moment; the chief alone had the courage to remain, and receive the formidable stranger with an air of the most profound veneration.

They conducted the Spaniards to the dwelling of the Inca, who received them with the utmost kindness: two princesses of the blood royal presented them with drink, and placed for them golden seats. What was their astonishment to behold such magnificence extended to even the most minute objects!

and

and what would they not have given to have been able to seize it at the moment it so opportunely lay before them? Ferdinand declared to the Inca the object of their arrival nearly in these words rendered by Philippillo: "My master, the powerful ruler of the countries towards the East, and the chief of the Christian Church, his Holiness the Pope, have sent us to deliver the Inca and his subjects from the power of the Devil."

This extraordinary speech, so unintelligible to the Peruvians, was also interpreted so ill by Philippillo, that it was impossible for the Inca to comprehend the smallest part of the purport; he however replied with great politeness, promised to see the chief of the Spaniards on the following day, and to hear from himself in what he could be serviceable to him. The deputies returned with the message to *Kaxamalka*, where Pizarro was already arrived, and had taken up his abode in one of the dwellings appertaining to the Inca. All that the Peruvians had hitherto heard and seen of the Spaniards so totally confounded their ideas, that they could form no fixed opinion of the nature or characters of these
mysterious

mysterious strangers. Sometimes they were ready to consider them as beings of a superior order, sent by their divinity to do them service; a supposition the Spaniards encouraged by the high accounts they endeavoured to promulgate of the intent of their mission. At other times, when they witnessed their acts of violence, and the thirst of rapine that animated them, they could not fail to retract their opinion, and refuse them the title of either good or peaceable men. On these occasions the unhappy Peruvians thought they were sent by Heaven to punish their crimes and dissensions. The first opinion appears to have been adopted by Atahualpa, since he of his own accord formed the resolution to pay them a visit.

During this interval preparations were made on both sides for this meeting, though in a very different manner. Atahualpa resolved to go to Pizarro with all the magnificence of a king, for he was far from suspecting any fraud. Pizarro, on the contrary, ordered preparations which had no appearance of being designed for a visit where peace and friendship were to preside.

He

He divided his sixty horsemen into three parties, confiding the command to his brother Ferdinand, Sotto, and Benalkafar; enjoining them to remain concealed behind an old wall until they received a specified signal. Two cannon that he had brought with him were placed near the door of the court, and his bow-men on each side; twenty of the bravest and most determined of his soldiers he ranged round himself; the remainder of the infantry were to remain under arms, and guard the interior of the court.

I shudder to proceed, and I have no doubt but that you begin to share my inquietude on hearing these murderous preparations: if for your suspicions are but too well founded. Pizarro and his men designed the blackest treachery.—But I will not anticipate events; this horrible adventure will speedily arrive in the natural course of the history.

The next morning, at the break of day, the whole camp of the Peruvians were in motion, to execute the orders of the Sovereign, and to make ready to impress Pizarro and the Spaniards with an idea of the magnificence and power of his majesty the Inca

Atahualpa. Great part of the day was spent in these preparations, and towards evening the procession began ; but proceeded so slowly, that they were four hours in marching the single mile that separated the two armies.

The Spaniards, in the mean time, were impatient of this delay. Pizarro suspected that it arose from a mistrust of his intentions, and sent one of his officers to the Inca to assure him a second time of his honour, and the sincerity of his conduct towards him. Perfidious villain ! Atahualpa, full of confidence in the strangers, advanced slowly with his suite towards *Kaxamalka*. He was seated on a litter, covered with gold and silver, ornamented with precious stones, scarce and beautiful feathers, and was carried by some of his principal officers. The Chiefs immediately next in dignity followed after, carried in the same manner. Companies of singers and dancers surrounded the litters, and an army of thirty thousand men closed this pompous procession.

They approached the quarter where the Spaniards resided ; and, if I may be allowed the simile, appeared like a flight of pigeons

hastening into the nest of a voracious hawk, who, with ardent and fiery eyes, open and outstretched talons, can hardly wait to ensnare before it falls upon its prey.

The Inca remarked the countenances and warlike carriage of the Spaniards; and perceiving that their appearance had an effect upon his friends, he said, "These strangers are sent by Heaven: beware how you offend them; let us seek to soften them in our favour by kindness and attention."

He had hardly spoken these words before Vincent de Valverde, who was chaplain to the Spanish army, left the ranks, and, holding a cross in one hand and a breviary* in the other, placed himself before the litter of the Inca, addressing him in a discourse which without contradiction was the most ridiculous that could be devised upon such an occasion. He talked to him of the creation, the fall of Adam, original sin, the incarnation, the passion, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; subjects which he endeavoured to explain in a conversation as laboured and un-

* The office book of a Romish Priest.

intelligible as it was mis-timed. He then entered into a pompous description of the power of the Pope, whom he named Christ's Vicar on earth; adding, that his Holiness Alexander the Sixth had made a present of all the New World to the King of Spain. He then advised the Inca not to defer embracing the Christian religion, to acknowledge the infallible authority of the Pope, and the sovereignty of the King of Spain. On these conditions, he added, he should remain in tranquil possession of his royal dignity, which the Spaniards would defend against all his enemies; but in case of a refusal he would draw upon himself a disastrous and murderous war. Atahualpa had patience to hear this long harangue with calmness; rendered, as it was, still more unintelligible by the interpretation of Philippillo. The little he comprehended excited his astonishment; but he had sufficient command of himself to reply calmly to the extravagant address of Valverde: "I am," said he, "willing to become the friend and ally of the King of Spain, but I will never be his vassal. As for the Pope, he must be a strange personage to give away what does not

belong to him. As to my religion, I shall change it for no other, because I think it more rational to adore the Sun, which is immortal, than the Christ you speak of, whose life, according to your own avowal, was terminated upon a cross. I understand none of those inconceivable things your orator has related to me, but I should be glad to learn by what means they have been revealed, and made known to him."—"By the means of this book," replied Valverde, presenting his breviary to the Inca. Atahualpa received the book, examined it curiously on all sides, then placed it to his ear; but gaining no information, with a smile of disdain he threw it from him, exclaiming, "It does not say a word." This action was sufficient for the inhuman priest, who turning to the Spaniards cried aloud, "Revenge, Christians, revenge! Behold how the word of God is disdained! To arms, and extirpate these dogs who trample the laws of God beneath their feet!" What sentiment, my children, do you experience in hearing these words from the lips of a priest? Heaven be praised that the time is passed when Religion groaned with the birth of such monsters!

sters! and honoured be the memory of those generous men, who have exerted, particularly in our age, all their understanding, talents, and authority, to enlighten mankind, combat and destroy their prejudices, annihilate superstition, and to inspire all human kind with true religion and pacific ideas!

Pizarro, who had until this moment with difficulty restrained his soldiers from rushing on the rich prey before them, at the words of the vindictive Valverde gave the signal of attack. In a moment the beating of drums, and the noise of military instruments, resounded through the air, while the canons and musketry carried death and slaughter into the midst of the Peruvian army. The horsemen rushed from their ambuscade, and Pizarro at the head of his infantry attacked the guard that surrounded the Inca.

Represent to yourselves the terror and surprise of this unhappy prince and his faithful subjects, at the sight of the irresistible strength of the cavalry, and the terrible effect of the fire-arms, which thus unexpectedly strewed death around them. The chiefs of the nation encircled their prince, forming a bulwark

wark with their bodies to screen him from danger; the rest dismayed had fled, and a great number fell by the swords of the cavalry, or were trampled to death by the horses.

Pizarro at length reached the litter that contained the Inca; when seizing him by the arm he dragged the unhappy prince to the earth, and ordered him to be conducted to his quarter. The officers who had defended their sovereign perished, and those whom fear had caused to flee were pursued, and if overtaken massacred without pity. Four thousand Peruvians, among whom were several children, women, and old people, were left dead upon the field of battle, while none of the Spaniards received the smallest wound, except Pizarro, whose hand was bruised by one of his own people at the moment he was seizing the Inca. During the whole of this carnage the infamous Valverde did not cease to excite and encourage the Spanish soldiers to murder, crying aloud, "Do not cut, but thrust; the wounds will be deeper and more certain."

The

The Mother. The monster!

The Father. The Spaniards, after having collected the spoils, put the seal to the abominations of this horrible day, by passing the night in rejoicing and profligacy of every kind. In the morning they took possession of the camp of the Peruvians, where they found inestimable treasures of gold and silver, stuffs and other valuables. The amount of these different articles surpassed even their most sanguine hopes, exalted as they were when they reached *Peru*.

John. At least I hope their avarice was now satisfied.

The Father. Do not expect it. Had it been so, that passion would for the first time have lost its influence with the Spaniards. Passions increase and strengthen by being gratified, and the soul which gives way to them engenders new desires, that in their turn are equally craving to be satisfied. This truth was but too clearly proved by the unfortunate Peruvians; for, the more the bloody hands of their oppressors grasped gold, the more their hearts gave into the hope of obtaining

taining it, and they became less scrupulous of the means, their avarice deadenning every other feeling.

Excuse me, my children, from dwelling longer to-day on the crimes of these barbarians; we have already heard too much; to-morrow I will endeavour to resume my narrative.

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